# Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE. MECHANIC ARTS. LITERATURE, NEWS, &C.

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## Maine Farmer.

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.


### The Planting and Growth of Forests.

It is gratifying to know that our wood and timber lands are being more carefully treasured, and that land unfitted for any crop but a crop of forest trees is being more highly valued than formerly. Good farmers are more and more in the habit of thinning out their woodland early in the winter, and of obtaining their yearly amount of fuel from decaying and down trees. Formerly the custom was, year after year, to go into the best growth, where wood could be got easiest, leaving the scattered and decaying and fallen trees to themselves. Land that has been once cut over, is now in many instances fenced off, the cattle kept from ranging through it, and the young trees left to make their best growth. One farmer in this county recently gave us a most interesting statement of the growth of forest trees, yellow birch, beech and maples upon a lot of twelve acres which has for six or seven years been under his watchful eye. No cattle are allowed to run upon the lot, which has been fenced to keep them out, the trees have been carefully pruned, and where standing too thick have been cut out. The trees have grown surprisingly, and we are promised, ere long, a statement of their increase from the enthusiastic tree grower, who is one of the most intelligent farmers in the county.

The growth of forest trees in favorable situations is more rapid than people generally are aware of. In a recent conversation with a farmer in Somerset county, who is now over eighty years of age, but whose mind is still unimpaired, he stated that in 1832, thirty-eight years ago, he cut all the hemlock and spruce timber upon a certain piece of woodland, for a barn frame, adding that every tree which was large enough for a girt, was cut. "Now," said he, "another barn frame, as large as the one I then put up, can be cut from the same piece of ground." Upon another piece, distinctly remembered by him, where, at the same period mentioned above, not a twig large enough for a fence withe was growing, are now birch trees eighteen inches through. A writer in a recent issue of the *Daily Journal* mentions the following: In June, 1816, when a small boy, he was harrowing in oats on some new land in Franklin county. Thirty-five years afterwards he was on the same ground, and found a thick forest, where at the time men were hewing timber eighteen inches square for a bridge. Twenty years ago, upon the home farm of the writer was a field of grass, the original forest growth on which had been then recently destroyed by fire. Now upon the same field is a splendid growth of birch, spruce, hackmatack, poplar and other trees, many of them forty feet in height, and a foot or more in diameter.

These instances of the growth of trees, together with many more, which might, if necessary, be here introduced, should induce farmers to be more careful in needlessly cutting down forest trees, and also encourage them to either start a new plantation, or what is better, perhaps, let land upon which a young growth of trees is just now starting, be set apart for the express purpose of the profit which will come from this crop alone. Every farmer, not too far advanced in years, ought by this time to understand that he plants not for his children, but for himself, and not for himself but for his children. This double motive should result in such a growing of forest trees among us, as we have not for years seen the like of.

We are glad this subject is receiving the attention of our correspondents, as the numerous articles recently published in our columns testify. To these we invite the earnest attention of our readers. The subscriber who recently inquired for information about planting pines, (stating he intended to plant twenty-five acres of light soil) will, we think, find his queries abundantly and satisfactorily answered in a valuable communication upon this subject, from a gentleman who has given the matter much thought, which we shall place before our readers in a week or two.

### Wheat and Barberry Rust.

I wish to inquire through the columns of your paper, if planting barberry hedges has any serious effect on the wheat crop like introducing the weevil or smut. A SUBSCRIBER.

*Bingham.*

To answer the above to our correspondent's satisfaction, or our own, would require a better knowledge of fungology than we make any pretentions to possess; and we can only state a few opinions of eminent investigators upon this point.

The theory has long been prevalent among farmers in many localities that the proximity of barberry bushes produced rust in wheat (not smut, as our correspondent intimates.) Men of science, on the other hand, unable to trace herein the sequence of cause and effect, long derided the idea, and placed it among the prejudices of the agricultural mind. References as early as 1774, by various English authors alluded to the prevalence of this idea, and by one writer it is stated that in a certain district the barberry bushes had been extirpated for this reason. Sir Joseph Banks, writing in 1806, suggested that the parasitic fungus of the barberry and that of the wheat might be of the same species, and that the seed can be easily transferred from the former to the latter. The researches of De Bary, an eminent German fungologist, made within the past few years, have tended to establish the theory of Banks, or, in technical language, proved the existence of the phenomenon of alteration of generation among fungi; affording another instance of the law that it is in their lowest forms that the animal and vegetable kingdoms approach one another most nearly, and that the whole tribes of fungi hitherto regarded as distinct, are in fact but different phases of one another. The orange-red spots so common on the leaves of the barberry are produced by what fungologists call the *Æcidium berberides*, while the rust of wheat is the *Puccinia graminis*. Experiments made by De Bary proved that the leaves of the barberry when inoculated with the spores of the *Puccinia* produced not the same fungus but the *Æcidium*, while the sowing of the spores of the latter fungus on the leaves of wheat produced the *Puccinia*. By sowing the spores of either fungus on the plant on which it was itself a parasite, he failed altogether to reproduce the same plant; and this alteration of generation may serve to account for the fact which has often been noticed, that rust is apt to appear, not in successive, but in alternate years on the same crop.

A case is mentioned in *Nature* (Vol. I. p 516)—an English scientific journal of high standing—that in the community of Geulis, in the south of France, a barberry hedge was not long since planted on one of the railway embankments, when immediately the crops of wheat, rye and barley became infested with rust. The complaints of the farmers caused the appointment by the company of a commission to investigate the subject, who reported, after a full inquiry, that wherever the barberry was planted, the cereals were more or less attacked by the rust—where they were absent, the crops were free from this disease, and that the planting of a single barberry bush was sufficient to produce the rust where it had never appeared before. The railway company's own commission held that a compensation was due from the company to the farmers. The whole question evidently turns upon the point of the alteration of generation in the spores of fungi—or in other words, the subsistence of one species of fungi, parasatic of a certain plant, upon plants of very opposite charistics, and supposed to be infested by another species of fungi—and some of the best known naturalists, who have devoted years of study to the structure of fungi, (among them Mr. M. J. Berkley, of London) regard it as "quite possible" for this to take place.

### The Borers of some Shade Trees.

We present below an abridgement of the article by Prof. A. S. Packard, Jr., on the "Borers of Certain Shade trees," which appeared in the *American Naturalist* for December last, as promised a few weeks since.

**The Elm Borer.**

Elms in cities have for many years been subject to the ravages of the Elm borer (*compsidea tridentata*), and as early as 1846 Dr. Harris had given a minute account of the insect. They operate between the bark and the wood of the tree, the grubs burrowing in the inner bark, and frequently gnawing into the surface wood. The bark of the elm is often perforated to the height of thirty feet from the ground, with numerous holes through which the insects have escaped. The beetle is dark brown, flat-bodied, with a rusty red curved line behind the eyes, two stripes on the thorax, and a three-toothed stripe on the outer edge of each wing cover. It is half an inch in length. The grubs rarely exceed three-quarters of an inch in length, and resemble the larvæ of other tree borers, except in being more flattened. They have no feet. Dr. Harris says they appear to complete their transformations in the third year of their existence.

**The Linden Tree-borer.**

The trees in some cities, Philadelphia, for instance, have suffered grievously from this borer Dr. Paul Swift, of that city, writing in 1844, says "within two years it has been found necessary to cut down forty-seven European lindens in Washington square alone, where there now remain only a few American lindens, and these a good deal eaten." This borer made its first appearance there in 1837. This insect is the *Saperda vestita* of Say, the beetle being a greenish snuff yellow, with six black spots near the middle of the back. Its length is eight tenths of an inch. The beetles make their appearance in this latitude during the first half of June. They fly into the top of the tree, and feed upon the epidermis of the tender twigs, and the petiules of the leaves, often entirely denuding the latter, and causing the leaves to fall. They deposit their eggs two or three in a place upon the trunk or branches, especially about the forks. As many as ninety eggs have been taken from a single beetle. The grubs hatched from these eggs undermine the bark to the extent of six or eight inches, and often penetrate the solid wood to an equal distance. Three years are required to mature the insect. Various expedients have been tried to arrest their course, but without effect.

**The Poplar Borer.**

The poplar tree is infested by another species of Saperda, the *S. calcorata* of Say. It is a much larger beetle than either of the others mentioned, being an inch or more in length. It is gray, irregularly striped with ochre, the wing covers ending in a sharp point. The grub is about two inches long, of a whitish yellow color, which bores in the trunks of the trees. The beetle flies by night in August and September.

One or two other borers of shade trees are alluded to, but their habits are not known.

### Editorial Notes.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, held in this city on Wednesday of last week, Hon. J. L. Chamberlain was unanimously elected President of the Institution, and Mr. Joseph R. Farrington, of Brewer, Farm Superintendant. The second term of the present calendar year opened on Wednesday of last week.

The *Vermont Farmer* is incorrect in saying that "the new cattle disease has appeared in some parts of Maine.". No case has yet made its appearance here, so far as our most diligent inquiries can ascertain. A pair of cattle supposed to have been afflicted with it, were traced from the Brighton market to the borders of the State—somewhere near Portsmouth, N. H. The appointment of Cattle Commissioners was a wise precautionary measure, and from the fact of their being thus appointed, the *Farmer* may have inferred the disease was among us. So far as we can learn, all the cases that have appeared in our country have been of a very mild form.

### New Publications.

Mr. G. B. Croff, an architect of Saratoga Springs, N. Y., has published a somewhat elaborate advertising circular, in which are several elevations and plans of houses, with designs for interior work, &c. The elevations present too much sameness in style, and where plans are given, are objectional from the fact that in every instance the dining-room must be passed through in order to reach the kitchen, from the sitting-room. The houses should all be warmed with "Webster's unrivalled hot-air furnaces." Few details are given, but plans and specifications will be forwarded on receipt of price, varying from $40 to $200. The author generously inserts the advertisement of a hotel, and of various dealers in iron work, building materials, &c. On the whole it is one of the more sumptous business circulars we have ever seen.

In a neat pamphlet of 87 pages, Prof. F. S. Holmes, of Charleston, S. C., gives an account of the history and development of the phosphate rocks of South Carolina, and the great Carolina marl bed, with a popular and scientific view of their origin, geological position and age, also their chemical character and agricultural value. Prof. Holmes enumerates thirteen companies now engaged in working these beds and in manufacturing the material into fertilizers, in which over six millions of Northern capital is already invested.

## Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

### Butter Dairy in Winter.

On my farm in Sidney, I am keeping this winter some fine Jersey cows and heifers, all of them giving milk, and none of them supposed to be in arrow. It may as well be said too, that I have the care of the barn and stock in my own hands, and instead of finding the work disagreeable, I enjoy it very much. My neat stock at this time consists of one Jersey bull—a thoroughbred animal—four cows, three two-year-old heifers, five yearling heifers, four heifer calves. Have fattened and sold recently five steers and two cows.

Now for the winter dairy. The milk is weighed night and morning accurately. From the middle of November up to this time I have got daily not far from one hundred pounds of milk. The cows give about the same amount of milk the coldest days as in mild weather. Some slight diminution was observant on one or two terribly cold days. I will add here, that I have lately bought a cow and heifer that are not equal to my Jerseys, though they are superior animals. There have been made from the cream each week about thirty to forty pounds of rich, waxen yellow butter. The milk is heated on the stove before it is set away in the milk room. Churning is attended to taree times a week. The great cream-pot is sure to be full every second day, and sometimes it is too small. The pot of cream makes nearly thirteen pounds of butter. The time occupied in churning varies from two to five minutes.

Some weeks ago, "Buttercup's" milk for one day was set by itself, to ascertain what she was doing to pay her expenses. The cream from one day's milk weighed two and three-quarters pounds; the butter fell short an ounce or two of one and a half pounds. She was making fully ten pounds of butter a week. She will do the same very nearly now, and will calve May 1st. Another cow—"Mayflower," made a pound and a trifle more in a day. I confess to my own surprise at the way these diminutive Jerseys hold out their milk. The first of December I sent a hundred pounds of butter to Salem, Mass.; the last of December I sent a hundred pounds to Belfast, and another lot will soon be ready for delivery, at fifty cents a pound. My stock has been steadily gaining in flesh since they came to the barn.

Now if any one supposes that the Jerseys are doing so well on "rough fodder and straw," they labor under a misapprehension. My stock from one end of the tie-up to the other—the whole hundred feet—has provender once or twice a day, besides all the good hay they can eat. Yearlings have some straw now. The cows have six quarts a day of ground oats and ears of corn. Heifers four quarts; yearlings two quarts; calves one quart. The cows more than pay for all that is consumed by the entire stock. The stock is fed regularly, watered regularly, and carded and brushed daily.

W. A. P. D.

For the Maine Farmer.

### Product of Seven Hens.

Our hens are the Brahma-pootra and White Brahma mixed. We have never made much account of raising eggs or poultry to sell, but keep a small number for our own use, and sell the overplus. Our hens began to lay so well in November last, 1870, that my wife kept an account of eggs sold in one year, viz.: 50 dozen, average price 28 cents, $14 00
Chickens sold, 252¼ lbs. live weight,
12¼ cts. per pound, 31 56
Three used in family, 17 pounds, 2 13

$47 69

Now for the expense. We did not keep an account of wintering and keeping up to July 1st. We charge them one bushel of corn each, crower included—eight bushels, at $1.25 per bushel, $10, which we think all will allow to be a liberal estimate. From July 1st to Nov. 1st, 10 bushels corn, $1.20 per bush., $12 00
4 bushels barley, $1.00 per bush., 4 00
8 bush. for wintering, at $1.25, 10 00

$26 00

Cr. 50 dozen eggs, $14 00
269¼ lbs. chickens, 33 68

$47 68
$26 00

Profit, $21 68

to say nothing of the eggs used in the family, which was a large number for a small family. I might state that we have not lost a chicken during the two past years after they were taken from their nests. The profit from hens, as from all animals, proceeds from giving them what they want to eat, and enough of it.

*Clinton.* PHILIP C. HALL.

For the Maine Farmer.

### Pork Report from Monroe.

Having noticed in a late paper an account of some fat pigs, that were slaughtered in Dixmont, (I believe) I thought I would send you an account of some that have been killed in this vicinity lately, and I hardly think the record can be beaten in the State, taking age and everything into consideration. Mr. Eli C. West killed one eighteen months old, that weighed when dressed, 665 pounds; and one about eight months old, that weighed over 300 pounds. Mr. Benjamin Wilder killed one that dressed when seventeen months old, 626 lbs. Mr. Freeman Atwood, one two years and four months old, pure Suffolk, (small breed) that dressed 615 pounds; and Mr. Rufus Neally one that dressed 475 pounds at seventeen months. Mr. Atwood also killed a spring pig, half blood Suffolk, eight months old, that weighed 353 pounds. Who shall say that farmers are not progressing? Why, I recollect but a few years ago, that people thought a pig that weighed three or four hundred, very large; now we have them all the way from three and four hundred, up to six, seven and eight hundred, and nothing said about it. Progression is the order of the day. Farmers are waking up—they read more, such papers as the FARMER, agricultural reports, &c., and through them and Farmers' Clubs, are learning new ways and methods, both of feeding and farming, and their farms, their stock, and everything about them show it in their improved appearance. J. S.

*Monroe.*

For the Maine Farmer.

### Tannin and Sulphate of Zinc.

In the article that Secretary Goodale furnished the FARMER of Dec. 31st from his coming report, after recommending as an astringent a solution of tannin, he says: "A cheap substitute may be found in sulphate of zinc." I see no need of a substitute, as tannin itself may always be easily and cheaply prepared from some of the plants in which it is found. I have long used, whenever an astringent was required, a strong decoction of the leaves of, usually, the raspberry. This is tannin as pure as is necessary for medicinal purposes. Yarrow, hardhack, plantain, &c., are very rich in tannin, and may be found even in winter, in most hay-mows.

As regards the sulphate of zinc, it is well known to be poisonous and chemically foreign to the body; and we Hygienics claim injurious to the health in small or large quantities. As I believe its use as he recommends would be injurious, to not only the animals, but through the milk, flesh, and even plants grown on the excrements, to human health, I think he would confer a favor on the public if he would recommend decoctions of astringent plants, in place of sulphate of zinc. H.

For the Maine Farmer.

### Value of Apple Pomace.

Leibig, the great agricultural chemist, says that apple pomace is the best known material to keep an orchard in bearing. Of this I have been satisfied for many years, and have been trying to learn my neighbors to practice using it for this purpose. This they are not inclined to do, but instead haul seaweed, which has not half the fertilizing properties, two miles, to put about their trees. I beg of them not to throw the pomace out back of the cider-house, but use it to put their orchards in a condition to secure better after crops. A. A. L.

*Kennebunk.*

For the Maine Farmer.

### Cutting Timber.

I am aware that there is a great quantity of good timber wasted and lost every year, by carelessly cutting into fire-wood trees that would make handsome finish if sawed and properly seasoned; yet there is many a farmer who ignores the fact, and as there is a plenty of wood on his farm, and he wishes to "clear up" a piece of ground, every tree undergoes the same process of being reduced to ashes. I do not claim to *teach* every farmer how to handle the axe, or to manage his wood lot to the best advantage; but I am minded to say some pretty hard things against the practice of cutting so many noble trees into four foot measure. The attention of architects and others interested in building, is rapidly being turned toward the giant maples and ash with which our forests abound. Within a few years black or brown ash has been used to a great extent in finishing the interior of dwelling houses, stores and churches.

I am now writing in a room I finished in my house eight years ago, with brown ash. This was the first I ever saw. Now there are a great number of buildings finished throughout with this beautiful wood of our own State. I make these remarks in order to bring the idea more into reason among "wood-choppers" to spare the best trees for timber or building purposes while "slashing away" with that sharp axe. Timber cut at the present time, will last much better than it will if delayed till March, especially where it comes to the weather. Most every one who has a wood lot can, while getting up his winter's wood, manage to save out from ten to twenty, or even fifty dollars worth of trunks for sawing into boards or timber. There is no wood grown in our State better adapted for floors than the poplar; and yet whole forests are sometimes cut into cord wood and sold for one-half what the same would be worth if sawed into boards. I have said but little about cutting timber; I have simply blocked out the article, and leave it for abler pens to finish. C. BUTTERFIELD.

*Sidney, Dec. 26, 1870.*

For the Maine Farmer.

### Agricultural Intelligence.

**Officers of East Somerset Agr'l Society.**

At the annual meeting of the East Somerset Agricultural Society, the following officers were chosen for 1871: Eleazer Crocker, St. Albans, President; Americus Morrill, Palmyra, and P. C. Haskell, Hartland, Vice Presidents; Thos. Fuller, Hartland, Secretary, Treasurer and Collector; S. E. Prescott, Hartland, Assistant Secretary; A. J. Moor, N. M. Webb, P. W. Thompson, Hartland, L. L. Lucas, St. Albans, Americus Morrill, Palmyra, Trustees. Our Society has let the building of an agricultural hall thirty by seventy feet, two stories high, to be completed by the first day of July next.

*Hartland.* THOMAS FULLER, Sec'y.

**Information Wanted.**

What causes bunches on colts' feet, or just below the uncle joint? Can they be cured, or are they ring bones or spoon bowl? I have a colt two years old that has got them on his feet. They made their appearance last summer. A SUBSCRIBER.

**Waldo County Agricultural Society.**

At the annual meeting of the Waldo Agricultural Society, held a few days since, the following officers were elected: President, Wm. C. Marshall; Vice Presidents, Vinal Hills, Geo. Woods; Secretary and Treasurer, George E. Brackett; Trustees, Howard Murphy, Jason Hills, Harrison Hayford, J. W. Savary. B.

**Answer to Query.**

In answer to your subscriber at Parkman, I would say that I once had a cow affected in a similar manner. I washed her legs in castile soap, using the suds quite strong, then took the scabs off, wiped dry and put on white lead and oil, made a little thicker than would have been necessary for painters' use. This application is also a good one for sore shoulders of horses, harness galls of any kind, &c.

*Portland.* C. R. N.

**A Good Yoke of Oxen.**

Mr. John Cochran of Belfast, sold a pair of oxen seven years old, which girthed eight feet and eight feet two inches respectively, for $425. GEORGE.

**East Eddington Porkers.**

As you sometimes publish the weight of porkers, I send the following, which have been dressed within the limits of the East Eddington Farmers' Club. One hog 22 months old, 695 pounds; one 18 months old, 580 pounds; eight pigs averaging about eight months old, ranging from 302 to 347 pounds each; another pig ten months old, weight 370 pounds; and several others that came nearly up to 300 lbs. If any small Farmers' Club can show a better record, we should like to hear from them.

EAST EDDINGTON.

**More Good Pigs.**

Samuel Marden of Palermo, slaughtered a Chester hog 26 months old, which weighed when dressed 732 pounds. Harrington Osgood of the same town, slaughtered a pig nine and a half months old, which weighed when dressed 471 pounds.

*Palermo.* S. M.

**A Somerset Porker.**

As this is the time for telling hog stories, I thought I would give you a history of a sow that was about eleven months old April 8th, 1869, when she had thirteen pigs; raised twelve, sold ten when four weeks old, for $50; two I kept at the same price—$10; Sept. 5th, 1869, she had nine pigs. I took her and pigs to the Fair, and received three dollars in premiums. Sold nine pigs when four weeks old, for $47. April 16, 1870, she had sixteen pigs, and raised twelve. I sold ten when four weeks old for $50; two I kept at same price—$10. Sept. 9, 1870, she had fourteen pigs, and raised nine. Sold seven four weeks old for $21; two I kept at same price—$6. Dec. 26, 1870, I slaughtered and sold the sow. Her weight was 504 pounds, at eleven cents per pound, $55.44—make a total of $252.44.

*Hartland.* THOMAS FULLER.

**Golden Straw Wheat.**

I am frequently receiving letters from different sections asking the price of my Golden Straw seed Wheat. My price is three dollars per bushel. I can accommodate those who want seed now but how long I shall be able to do so is very uncertain. S. N. WATSON.

*North Fayette, Jan. 10th, 1871.*

**Parkman and Abbot.**

The Union Farmers' Club of Parkman and Abbot is in full blast. We are having good meetings and full houses. The following are our list of officers: President, Wesley Harrington, Parkman; Vice President, L. E. Hovey, Parkman; Secretary, Sewell Works, Abbot; Treasurer, E. P. Merrill, Parkman; Librarian, Wm. E. Leonard. There his been a great increase in interest since the commencement of our weekly meetings last October. The ladies attend, bringing their knitting-work, and showing themselves true farmers' wives by their industry. J. H. W.

**Kenduskeag.**

The "Kenduskeag Farmers' Club" has been reorganized by the choice of E. F. Nason, President and T. P. Batchelder, Secretary. Meeting every other Saturday for discussion. Topic for next evening, "The Cultivation of Small Fruit." T. P. BATCHELDER.

**South Newburgh.**

The citizens of South Newburgh and vicinity met, Dec. 30, and organized a Farmers' and Mechanics' Club, with the choice of the following officers: J. P. Rigby, President; J. F. Hussey, Vice President; O. M. Bickford, Secretary; C. Croxford, Treasurer; J. F. Hussey, Librarian. The club held their first annual meeting, Jan. 2d. O. M. BICKFORD.

**Big Slaughter of Big Pigs.**

Some few days since, Thos. Holmes, Esq., of this town, killed four pigs about nine months old, which weighed as follows: 340, 349, 359, 371. The same day Mr. Wm. G. Williams killed four, three of which weighed as follows: 303, 304, 527½; average weight of the seven, 365. The largest one slaughtered by Mr. Williams, weighing 527½, was ten months and ten days old. A.

*Litchfield Corner.*

## Farmers' Clubs.

For the Maine Farmer.

### East Turner.

The members of the East Turner Farmers' Club have been talking up the subject of manures in its various aspects, for several evenings. The subject is a threadbare one, of course, yet it is one upon which we still need line upon line, and precept upon precept. Many of the members have for a long time given much thought to the subject, and have prepared very convenient arrangements for saving, preparing and housing it. From the mass of testimony some selections are made. The reader will bear in mind that the opinions expressed are the almost unanimous opinions of the club; and the practices are carried out by all, so far as circumstances and convenience will allow.

C. Gilbert said that in this State one half of the manure is lost from lack of attention, and much of that which is first saved is lost by neglect and in the application. When allowed to ferment before applied much loss is sustained unless some ingredient is composted with it. The liquid voidings of the stock are worth as much as the solid, and can easily be saved, both summer and winter, if one has the inclination to do it. Absorbents should be used to take up these liquids and thereby double the amount of manure from the stock. All the waste slops, suds, &c., from the house, together with the deposits of the the privy, should be conducted to a vault, and then absorbed by muck or loam. A very large amount of the very best of compost for certain crops could be thus secured from what would otherwise be lost.

J. D. Gilbert said that his cattle were stabled nights in the summer, and littered with a sufficient quantity of partially dried muck to absorb and hold all the liquid. His hogs are kept in the cellar, and are supplied with liberal quantities of muck or loam which they work over, and soon convert into valuable manure. Enough absorbing material should be used to keep the apartment dry. Fowls if properly attended to will furnish a large amount of the most valuable fertiiizing material. These droppings are very strong, and should be mixed with five or six times their bulk of pulverized muck, and allowed to slightly heat, when the heap should be worked over. A quart of this compost is sufficient for a hill of corn. He has realized astonishing results from its use. Ten head of cattle, with horse, hogs, hens, turkeys, &c., should make an ox-cart load of manure every two days on an average, the year round.

L. Gilbert makes large quantities of valuable compost from the house slops, and from the deposits of the privy. An excavation is made in some convenient place near the house, and filled with muck and loam—muck is preferable—and all the suds slops from the house are conducted on it, and allowed to filter through it, or dry up from the surface, the muck retaining the manurial properties of the slops, and allowing the pure water to pass away. Whenever any offensive odor from the surface is discovered, as will frequently be the case in hot weather, the compost is forked over, and all odors absorbed. Muck is one of the most powerful deodorizers in existence—dry earth of which so much is said is not to be compared with it. The privy is supplied with a liberal share of this deodorizing material from time to time, when needed, and a large pile of compost is realized therefrom. These preparations are the most valuable manures for the corn-hill of anything made on the farm. They never fail to produce the most satisfactory results.

A. G. Day said the best preparation of manures was that which saved the most at the least expense. Muck was the best available material to use in the preparation of manures. He had composted the solid droppings of his stock by forking over the heaps at the barn and mixing an equal quantity of pulverized muck, allowing the mass to remain under cover till the next fall. Comparative trials repeatedly made had proved this mixture more valuable, bulk for bulk, than the manure before being mixed. This testimony was corroborated by the experience of many other members of the club who had repeatedly tested the value of the same mixture.

H. A. Gilbert used muck for bedding in summer, and in winter used refuse hay and straw liberally. The manure was coarse, and unfit to apply in that shape. This was allowed to lay over, and was mixed with muck in the proportion of one part muck to two of manure. Fermentation took place, and by fall it was thoroughly decomposed. This fine manure was much better for the crop than when green, and there was not much if any loss in the decomposition while the bulk was largely increased.

Z. A. Gilbert believed in combining muck, loam, &c, with barn manure, but the object aimed at should *first* be the absorption of those liquids which would otherwise run to waste. Till this is done, no labor or material should be used in composting solid excrement, because the saving of the liquid is of more importance. The farmer who uses his muck and spends his labor to compost the solid manure while the liquid is running to waste, is not using his means to the best advantage. When absorbents enough are used to take up all the liquid manures around the house and at the barn, which would go to waste if not attended to, a vast amount of absorbing material will be used, and a surprising quantity of manure made. After this has been done, then the farmer may compost his solids with muck and make the operation pay largely.

S. Townsend said that muck was the best available substance for an absorbent. It was much lighter to handle than loam, and its absorbing power was much greater. In the absence of a barn cellar, he practised putting muck or loam under his tie-up floor, and thus saved a portion of the urine. This is removed and renewed twice each year. All substances which will contribute to the enlarging the manure heap should be gathered up.

*Jan. 24.* SECRETARY.

For the Maine Farmer.

### West Hampden.

The question before the West Hampden Farmers' Club at their last meeting attracted considerable attention, and was one upon which we would like the opinion of others. "Is Feeding Salt any Benefit to Farmers." Some were surprised that any doubts were formed as to its good results. Others were doubtful, while the majority were against its use on hay, or for cattle, horses, swine or sheep. One said he was positive it was a habit formed and inherited, and named many cases to prove his belief, he had not fed any to his sheep for twelve years, (bred from the same flock) and now they would not eat any. He named cases where men had lived on fresh food with good results. Another said he fed no salt now, and his cattle were better for it. He said there was not half the salt used in this place now that there was ten years ago. Another believed it an injury to hay instead of a benefit. One speaker related his experience in California, stating that men from one country would give five dollars for a dry codfish, while another from another country would not eat a piece for that amount. Those that favored its use named many examples to prove the benefit of its use. One was that wild cattle and buffalos would go great distances to find salt. A. C.

### Organizations of Farmers' Clubs.

**Castle Hill and Mapleton.**

The Castle Hill and Mapleton Farmers' Club met Dec. 30, to choose officers for the ensuing year: President, John Waddell; Vice President, A. M. Dudley; Secretary, E. Tarr; Treasurer, A. M. Dudley; Directors, S. S. Staples, B. J. Hughes, M. Dudley. E. TARR, Sec.

**Prospect and Stockton.**

The Prospect and Stockton Farmers' Club held their annual meeting, Jan. 7th, and elected the following officers for the ensuing quarter: President, Lewis Mudgett; Vice President, Nelson P. Staples; Secretary, Isaac T. Smith; Treasurer, John Libby; Librarian, Wm. Smith. We have been hoping to obtain a lecturer from the county society but have been unable to as yet. We hold our meetings weekly. Yours, &c., ISAAC T. SMITH.

*Prospect.*

For the Maine Farmer.

### Corinth.

The citizens of Corinth met on Monday evening, Dec. 12, and organized a Farmers' Club. John Thissell was chosen President; John Thomas, Secretary; Davis, Bean and Megguir, a committee to select and present to the club suitable questions for discussion. A committee of three was appointed by the chair to draft a constitution and by-laws. At our next meeting the constitution as reported by the committee was adopted. It provides that the president and vice president shall hold office for the term of two weeks, the secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer, during the will of the society, and that the corresponding secretary shall occasionally report the proceedings of the club to the MAINE FARMER. The exercises of the club consist of declamations, discussions, &c., by the male members, while a society paper is sustained by the ladies.

The club meets once a week, and all questions for consideration are announced one week previous to the time appointed for discussion. The design of the society is to afford instruction to all. Our first question, "What is the best method of managing stock during the winter season?" gave rise to considerable discussion

Huckins advocated warm barns and plenty of corn, the former as a protection against the cold, and the latter, as it possesses a large proportion of the producing element, to sustain animal heat; thus bringing stock through in better condition, and with less expense than when kept wholly on hay. He especially claimed that feeding largely with provender this winter was cheaper, owing to the high price of hay.

Cochran, whose stock always looks well, said he had warm barns, gave his stock plenty to eat, fed regularly on hay, but not largely on provender, and on warm, sunny days, let his cattle remain in the yard.

Dexter said his experience taught him that young stock, particularly calves, required feeding oftener than older cattle.

Wentworth, Chandler, Bean and others, spoke of the manner of feeding cattle, and the great advantage of warm barns over cold, both as a matter of economy and comfort.

At our next meeting the question, "Will the potato as cultivated in Maine prove injurious to the soil?" was thoroughly discussed, and many very interisting remarks were made.

Chandler stood up boldly as the friend of the potato, "because the potato is the poor man's friend." He thought the potato crop the best paying of any raised in Maine, especially in Penobscot county, and as cultivated, would not prove more injurious to the soil than any other crop yielding the same profit.

He was ably seconded by Huckins, who said that as the potato was composed mostly of water and starch, it could not prove a great injury to the soil, and was the best paying crop we could raise.

Megguier took the ground that we were raising too many potatoes, that for a little ready money we were sacrificing our farms. He compared the present method of raising potatoes, to the old tobacco mania of Virginia, and said it would have a similar result.

Thissell gave an interesting history of the potato, and said he considered the potato crop one of the most exhaustive raised in Maine.

Cochran said he did not consider the potato so injurious as the method of cultivation. He thought the trouble was that farmers with small means and but little stock, planted too much ground to potatoes—more than they could properly dress—and were obliged to seed their ground to grass after cropping it two or three years, and the result was, they got small hay crops. This process continued, he thought, would very much injure the soil.

Haynes, Bean, Worth and others participated in the discussion, after which a vote was taken, all but two voting that the potato as cultivated in Maine will prove injurious to the soil.

There is a good interest manifested in our club, and the people here and in the adjoining towns, seem to be waking up on the great question of agriculture, and as the time approaches, some anxiety is felt, as it is to be decided this winter whether or not the Penobscot Central Agricultural Society is to have a charter from the Legislature. D. F. D.

For the Maine Farmer.

### The Winter's Campaign.

A large number of Farmers' Clubs are in successful operation in this State at the present time. Many new ones are being organized and put in working condition in neighborhoods where none have before existed, and many old ones are being more profitably conducted, and the exercises are becoming more interesting, now that the members are better acquainted with the objects aimed at by the meetings. Familiarity with the exercises invariably creates an interest in the club.

A pretty good opportunity was had at the Farmers' Convention at Farmington, in the hall day which was devoted to the discussion of this subject, and to the reports of delegates there assembled, which you briefly noticed in your account of the meeting, to learn of the degree of success with which they are meeting. It certainly was most gratifying to all interested in the movement. The reports were more satisfactory than I expected, and showed a happy degree of prosperity in the clubs represented. Of course only one side of the picture was held up to view, for the lifeless clubs and those which have an organization, but as yet fail to awaken a commendable degree of interest, were not represented, and therefore not reported. Probably not one-fourth of the active clubs in the State were represented, but allowing those represented to be all, and we have a most encouraging aspect.

A new movement to promote their efficiency and increase their usefulness, is being inaugurated. County Farmers' Club Conventions are being called in several counties, at which each club in the county is represented by two or more delegates. These conventions are devoted to the consideration of such farm topics as may be deemed best, and also to such matters as will serve to encourage and sustain the farmers' clubs. Already such a convention has been held in Hancock county, where probably the various clubs have attained a degree of success unequalled in any other county. Hancock bears the honor of having inaugurated the system. Another meeting is called in Franklin county, to meet at Farmington, Feb. 22d. The Oxford bears, not wishing to be outdone in a good cause, are making arrangements for such a gathering to be held at a time and place yet to be designated.

Who can estimate the influence that will go out of these Farmers' Clubs? They are the primary schools of agriculture, and will do for the farmer, in a measure, what the common school has done and is doing for the citizen. The opinion of all at the Farmington Convention was, that the Board of Agriculture never enacted a wiser measure than that requiring a portion of money expended for their encouragement. May the good work go on. There is still a large field for missionary labor in this direction. ANDROSCOGGIN.

*Jan. 25.*

For the Maine Farmer.

### Mt. Vernon and Vienna.

The Mt. Vernon and Vienna Farmers' and Mechanics' Club met agreeably to adjournment the first Saturday evening in October. We have held our meetings regularly since that time once a week. At our last meeting, Saturday evening, Jan. 7, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Sewall Eaton, President; Joshua Wells, Hiram Bent, Alfred Weston, Vice Presidents; P. J. Cogswell, Secretary; Wm. H. Carr, Collector and Treasurer; Calvin Hopkins, Librarian. Our club is flourishing; its members number fifty-two, and the interest as well as the numbers are still increasing. Since our organization, Dec. 31, 1869, there have been sixteen different topics discussed, sometimes devoting three, four and even five evenings to one subject. There have been seven lectures delivered before the club, and we expect some more during the winter. Daniel H. Thing delivered an instructive and well-written lecture upon "What Constitutes a Successful Life." E. Kempton, Esq., delivered a very interesting lecture at our last meeting, subject, "The Farmer and the Lawyer." P. J. COGSWELL, Sec'y.

## Woman's Department.

### A New Way of Making Cheese.

In conversation recently with an intelligent gentleman, one interested in all farm processes, and practically familiar with many parts of farming, he related the manner of making, or rather of pressing cheese, practiced by a neighbor of his—a woman skilled in household economy, and famous for her nice cheese. With the number of cows usually kept, it takes three days to make a cheese. Her former method was to run up a curd each morning, keeping them until the third day; then mixing old and new curds together, and putting into the hoop and pressing. Her practice is now to run up the curd and put it into the press at once, the hoop being about one-third full. The next morning the second curd is run up, that which was in the hoop is taken out, the cloth changed, placed in the hoop again; the top of it is then scratched or broken with a fork, and the second curd put in, when it is again placed in the press, where it remains all day. The third morning's curd is then run up, the cheese taken from the press, turned, the surface hacked up with a fork, and the third curd again spliced on, bringing the first curd in the middle of the cheese. It is then pressed sufficiently, taken out and placed in the curing room. By this process the work each morning is cleared all away, no curds are kept over, and a good sized cheese is produced of superior quality, and one as firm and solid as if all placed in the hoop at once.

### Training Balsams.

BALSAM PRUNED TO FIVE BRANCHES.

Balsams bear very close pruning, and can be trained into a variety of forms. Pinch off the branches and shoots as they appear, so that when in full bloom the flowers will not be concealed by foliage, as is the case when the plant is left unpruned. We figured last week, the flower of a balsam one-fourth the natural size, and show this week the effect when the plant is pruned to five branches. Other forms, as the single stem—in which case the plants will bear close planting—and pruned to three, four and six branches, may be adopted.

### Household Queries.

We group under this heading, several queries from correspondents, and hope the information desired will be furnished by some of the readers of this Department.

**Hulled Corn.**

I wish some of your readers skilled in writing, and in the way of perparing this delicious food, would tell us just how to hull corn so as to have it nice every time. I never have good luck with it; but if I could do it, so it would taste as good as that which I have sometimes eaten, I should be glad. R. L. M.

**Propagating House Plants.**

Most kinds of house plants can, I am aware, be propagated by slips or cuttings; but I would like to know if there is any particular season when the slips are to be removed for this purpose. Should they be placed in earth immediately, or rooted in water? ZOE.

**Smoking Hams.

# Maine Farmer.

**Augusta, February 4, 1871.**

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

**$2,00 in advance, or $2,50 if not paid within Three Months of the date of Subscription.**

☞ All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for money's remitted by him.

☞ A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the *same of the office to which it has been previously sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

**Collectors' Notices.**

Mr. S. N. TABER will canvass the county of Waldo during the month of January.

Mr. V. DARLING is now canvassing Lincoln county.


### The Capitulation of Paris.

The most joyful piece of news that the world has heard for many months is that Paris has at last yielded to the Germans. The event has been long anticipated, because it was clear to intelligent observers that by all the rules of common sense Paris ought to have surrendered long ago. Her resistance has been perfectly hopeless. Even from the first it was only to be hoped that the French armies operating outside of Paris would compel the besiegers to retire. In point of numbers the garrison of Paris was all-sufficient, numbering, soon after the commencement of the seige, over four hundred thousand men; but in quality they were sadly wanting. The bulk of the regular army had surrendered at Worth or Sedan, or were shut up in Metz; and the leaders in Paris had for the most part raw recruits, of indifferent material. It does not seem that much confidence was placed in these troops, for very few attempts were made at sorties. The inactivity of General Trochu is perhaps a proof of his superior judgment. He chose rather to maintain an attitude of passive resistance than to sacrifice the lives of his men in a vain attempt against the German veterans.

Besides the foes without the walls, General Trochu had to contend with the mob and famine within. It was doubtless fear of the mob that prevented an earlier surrender, and even at the time of capitulation it is reported that the populace were demanding new sorties. It was famine that determined the event. To provision for a siege, a population of two millions, is no small matter. In 1858 with a population of 1,500,000 Paris consumed thirty-two million gallons of wine, two-hundred million pounds of butcher's meat, and other articles in proportion. Immediately after the surrender of the emperor, the work of victualing the city commenced in earnest, and the extraordinary slowness of the German advance at that time allowed the Parisian authorities to bring in a vast quantity of provisions—enough to subsist the population for over four months. Yet weeks before the capitulation, supplies had run very low, and people had been devouring not only horses and rats, whose use was begun in times of peace, but even mules, dogs and cats. They were on the very verge of starvation.

From the bombardment itself Paris has suffered comparatively little. The projectiles of the besiegers reached almost to the centre of the city, destroying some buildings and killing a few people. It was just enough to give the gay people a taste of real war. Had the surrender been much longer delayed, a vast amount of damage would have been done.

The fall of the capital is thought to be the immediate precursor of peace. An armistice of three weeks is signed; and as the terms of surrender were very liberal, it is hoped that the Emperor William will not insist upon very severe terms of peace. The Parisians are spared the humiliation of a triumphal entry by their foes; their own national guard is to retain its arms, and undertake the maintenance of order. The other troops are to lay down their arms and become prisoners of war. The Germans occupy all the forts. The National Assembly is to meet in Bordeaux in a fortnight, and until February nineteenth there is to be a suspension of hostilities.

So unreasonable have the French people shown themselves to be at other crises during the war, that even now peace is not certain; but the leaders appear now for the first time willing to concede something to the victors.

STATE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION. The State Temperance Convention held in this city on Tuesday last, was not largely attended—very few people from out of town being present. Gov. Perham presided, and Messrs. F. E. Shaw of Paris, and Geo. E. Brackett of Belfast, were appointed Secretaries. Vice Presidents representing the several counties were also chosen. Gov. Perham on taking the chair, addressed the convention in a few brief but earnest words. The meetings continued through the day and evening.

A series of resolutions were reported by a committee, which were discussed by different gentlemen and unanimously adopted. The first returns thanks to God for the success achieved thus far. The second confesses that intemperance is still increasing in its destructive work. The third calls upon all good men and women to unite in the use of all proper means to advance the cause. The fourth recognizes the necessity of educating the young and cordially recommends the formation of youth's temperance societies. The fifth calls upon the clergy to use their best efforts to arouse the public conscience. The sixth endorses the principle of prohibition and rejoices that it is the settled policy of the State. The seventh approves of the plan of the Congressional Temperance Society of making a special effort to secure names to the abstinence pledge February 22d, and calls upon the temperance people of the State to observe the day with public meetings. The eighth adheres to the conviction that in those localities where the local authorities fail to enforce the law a State police should be provided.

In the evening an eloquent address was made by Miss Julia Coleman of Brooklyn, N. Y., on the subject of alcohol.

☞ The Grand Divison of the Sons of Temprance of this State held its session with Ticonic Division, at Waterville, closing with a levee on Thursday evening. Though the session was a very pleasant one to all, says the *Mail*, it was not largely attended, probably on account of the severe weather. The deliberations were interesting, especially to the order, though unimportant to the public. The reports were full of courage. The closing evening was given as usual to social intercourse, and was filled with interesting remarks by various speakers, pleasant conversation, some unpretending refreshments, and a genial good time generally.

OFFICIAL CENSUS OF MAINE. The Secretary of State has examined the enumeration of the inhabitants of the State, as made up by the United States Marshal, and the following is the result by counties: Aroostook, 29,579; Androscoggin, 35,876; Cumberland, 82,157; Franklin, 18,746; Hancock, 36,469; Kennebec, 53,225; Knox, 30,820; Lincoln, 28,834; Oxford, 33,466; Piscataquis, 16,398; Penobscot, 74,643; Sagadahoc, 18,187; Somerset, 34,049; Waldo, 34,640; Washington, 43,304; York, 60,183. Total, 629,195. The census for 1860 gave 628,600 inhabitants, showing a gain for the last ten years of only 495.

☞ The appropriations reported for New England fortifications have been reduced to one-half of the amount estimated for the year. The following are the appropriations for Maine: Fort Georges, Portland, $15,000; Fort Preble, $28,500; Fort Scammel, $50,000. Appropriations of $62,000 for Battery at Portland Head, and $75,000 for Little Hog Island, were not allowed by the Committee.

PREVENTION OF QUACKERY. There is a bill before the Legislature that proposes to decide who shall practice medicine and who shall not. For the ostensible purpose of preventing quackery, there is to be a council of seven persons, two to be chosen by the Trustees of the Medical School of Maine, two by the Maine Medical Association, and two by the governor, and one to be chosen president by these six. This council is to register all persons who hold diplomas of Maine Medical School or any other of similar requirements, and who shall pass a satisfactory examination. Any person practicing medicine without registration shall be subject to fine. The bill forbids the council to make any particular theory of medicine a condition of registration; but we hardly see how the members can avoid being influenced by their own theories, and how it will be possible in such a body to secure perfect fairness toward all schools.

To go to the bottom of the matter, what reason is there for government undertaking to decide for the people whom they shall employ when sick. To be sure the most of the medical theories are false—to be more exact, only one of the many theories can be true. But from that fact, we can no more infer that the State ought to decide which is right, than that the State should undertake to decide among the many religious creeds held by the different sects, which one is right, although we know that one is right and all the rest are wrong.

☞ An investigation into the affairs of the National Military Asylum is going on in Washington. Gen. Farnsworth, the principal mover in this investigation, claims that he can show that of the $50,000 paid by Government in the purchase of the Asylum at Augusta, only $30,000 was received by the owners of the property. On Thursday last Gen. E. W. Hinks was before the Committee, and testified that he was employed by the board to examine sites for the eastern branch asylum; that he selected and purchased grounds near Augusta, of which was before the Committee, and testified that he was employed by the board to examine sites for the eastern branch asylum; that he selected and purchased grounds near Augusta, of which institution he was governor for a year after its establishment. The property was an abandoned watering-place, on which the former owners had spent $200,000. The price asked was $60,000, and the amount paid was $50,000. The owner was Mrs. Nickle of New York, who had received it from a former husband, Horace Beales. The evidence failed to establish any foundation for the story that Mrs. Nickle did not receive the whole amount of $50,000, according to the term of the contract.

☞ Hon. R. D. Rice of this city returned home on Monday, 23d ult., from an extended trip to the Pacific slope, where he has been in the region about Puget sound in the interest of the Northern Pacific Railroad Co., of which he is Vice President. Work is now rapidly progressing on the eastern end of the line, and it is expected that 233 miles of the road, from Lake Superior, across Minnesota to the Red River of the North, will be completed and in full operation by the first of August next. Meantime orders have been sent to the Pacific for the commencement of work on the western end in early spring, and thereafter the work will be actively pushed both eastward and westward until this great enterprise is completed.

☞ The Fakir of Vishnu, whose popular and successful entertainments in this city several years ago are pleasantly remembered, will give a series of his wonderful performances at Granite Hall next week, commencing on Monday evening, Feb. 6th.

In addition to the Fakir's marvellous feats of slight of hand and other amusing and wonderful performances, the distribution of gifts to the audience on each evening, are of the most varied character, including among other articles, a $175 suite of parlor furniture; a purse of $50 in gold; suits of chamber furniture valued at $45 and $40 each; two purses of $45 and $30 in greenbacks; and one hundred other valuable articles. Of course there will be a great rush for the lucky numbers.

☞ The Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, have reported favorably on a bill giving to George F. Robinson $5000 and a gold medal, for his bravery in saving the life of Secretary Seward, when attacked by Payne on the night of President Lincoln's assassination. The details of the occurrence are familiar to the public mind, and need not to be repeated. Robinson, who is a native of Maine, is now a clerk in one of the departments at Washington on a salary of 1200 a year, and has a wife and child to support. The testimonial proposed is a tardy but just recognition of his heroic, self-sacrificing bravery.

☞ Capt. Isaac Lapham of Pittston met with an accident in the woods on Friday last from the effects of which he died on Sunday. When the accident occured he was chopping down a tree, and the last thing he recollects was, of stepping back a few paces to see it fall. It appears that as the tree fell, it struck with great force against another tree, breaking off a very heavy branch, which dropped directly upon Capt. Lapham's head. He laid senseless in the snow a short time, when he partially aroused and crawled upon his team, starting it for home. When he arrived there he was senseless and remained so for some time.

☞ In a hearing before the Railroad Committee last week Hon. E. F. Pillsbury appeared on behalf of Thos. Taylor who applies for the exclusive right to run Thompson's steam carriage on the public roads from Farmington to New Sharon and Phillips. Mr. Ellis, master mechanic of the P. & K. R. R. Co., having given much attention to the subject of steam carriages for common carriage roads, testified that he considered the plan perfectly feasible. It was voted to report a bill.

A DANGEROUS BUSINESS. The Portland *Press* says: Our files show an extraordinary mortality among wood-choppers this winter. Since the first day of the present month five men have been killed by falling trees, while a sixth has been so seriously injured that he is not expected to live. All but one of these accidents have happened to farmers who were engaged on their lots in getting up their fuel, and not to persons engaged in logging in the woods. This indicates that chopping wood is as dangerous as going to sea.

☞ Senator Morrill left this city on Monday last, for Washington, having it is hoped so far recovered his health as to be able to bear the fatigue of the journey. Under the advice of his physician, however, he will abstain from any active or exhausting labors during the present session of Congress.

☞ The Kennebec *Journal* states what we have never doubted would prove to be the case, that every change which has been made by Mr. Baker in the revision of the statutes has been adopted by the Legislature. In each case it was found that the changes were essential to the better understanding of the several acts.

☞ The friends of Rev. Wm. C. Stevens of Hartford, made him a visit on the 4th ult., and after enjoying a season of social intercourse and partaking of the refreshments furnished for the occasion, took their departure, leaving about sixty dollars in cash and other valuables.

☞ The second evening of the Universalist Levee at Granite Hall, takes place to-night, (Thursday.) The entertainment on Wednesday evening was a very attractive one, and as usual the attendance was large.

☞ A supply of cotton has been received by the Messrs. Sprague for their factory in this city, which will commence running as soon as operatives can be obtained for the purpose. See their advertisement in another column.

☞ Master Edward W. Sturdy of this city, a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, has been ordered to the receiving ship at New York.

☞ The Capital Guards will give a grand Military and Civic Ball at Meonian Hall on Tuesday evening next.

## Editor's Table.

POEMS BY LUCRETIA MARIA DAVIDSON. Messrs. Hurd & Houghton, New York, have issued a very beautiful edition of the poems and prose writings of this gifted poet, of whose writings, Robert Southey, in the *London Quarterly Review*, said "In these poems there is enough of originality, enough of aspiration, enough of conscious energy, enough of growing power to warrant any expectation, however sanguine, which the patrons and friends and parents of the deceased could have formed." She was born in 1808, and died in 1825, at the early age of 16 years and eleven months. The volume contains three hundred pages, portraits of Miss Davidson, and of her brother L. P. Davidson, a view of Plattsburg, N. Y., the birth place of the author, and ten illustrations from the pencil of F. O. Darley. "Barry Gr. y," —a well known New York journalist and poet—writes the introduction, and a biography of Miss Davidson, by Mrs. Sedgwick closes the volume. The volume is a handsome specimen of book-making. For sale in this city by Clapp & North.

Readers of the *Atlantic Monthly* need no introduction to Mr. William D. Howells. His sketches in recent numbers of that popular magazine, are well known, and its readers are familiar with "Mrs. Johnson," "Doorstep Acquaintance," "By Horse-Car to Boston," and other charming studies of American life and manners. His pictures are life-like. There is freshness and vivacity to whatever he writes. His style is pure, graceful and simple, and his works deserve to be classed with the classics. He has collected these essays in a volume with the charming title of "Suburban Sketches," and is most fortunate in securing Hurd & Houghton for his publishers. The book will win a secure place in the hearts of hosts of readers.

One of the most important publications of the past year is the work on "Alaska and its Resources," from the pen of William H. Dall, Director of the Scientific Corps of the late Western Union Telegraph Expedition. It forms a large volume of over 600 pages, printed on heavy paper, and illustrated by engravings and map of Alaska and adjoining territory, from the most authentic sources. It is divided into two parts, the first containing a narrative of travels on the Yukon river and in the Yukon territory, and the second treating of the geography, history, aboriginal inhabitants, geology, climate, agriculture and the fisheries, fur trade and other resources of the territory. In the appendix, which comprises nearly one hundred pages, there is a great mass of information relating to the statistics, population, language, and natural history of this interesting country. The popular interest in this newly-acquired domain, may have somewhat abated among our citizens, but no one can take up this volume and not become interested in it. It is a standard work, and will long be consulted by whoever wishes information about our North Western possessions. It is published by Lee & Shepard, Boston.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. Hon. Abner Colburn President of the Board of Trustees has made his annual report of the condition of this institution. A perfect title has been granted the college to its lands in Orono, making available the $50,000 appropriated by the last Legislature. The principal work of the past season has been to devise plans, provide material and erect buildings for the necessary wants of the college, a description of which has already been given in these columns.

The number of students now connected with the college is 32. The services of John Swift, B. S., a graduate of the agricultural College of Michigan, have been secured for the department of botany and horticulture. Arrangements have been perfected for lectures in the summer on Comparative Anatomy and Zoology, br Prof. E. S. Morse of the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass., and on the Useful and Injurious Insects, by A. S. Packard, M. D., of the same institution. It is confidently expected that a military professor will be appointed by the government, to enter upon duty early in the spring term.

The report of the Treasurer, Hon. Isaiah Stetson, shows the amount of funds in his hands on construction account to be $7,763.02, and the amount overdrawn on general account $1,620.36, leaving $6,142.66. This sum will be nearly sufficient for finishing the new dormitory and providing warming apparatus for it. A small additional appropriation will be needed to make the work complete. The remainder of the land, donated by Congress for the benefit of the college, has been sold by the Governor and Council, at 81 cents per acre, and the proceeds invested in State of Maine 6 per cent. bonds, to the amount of $13,600. The discount and the accrued interest on these bonds were paid by the State Treasurer on the second day of November last, and amounted to $431.61. The surplus which has accumulated from the interest on the Congressional Endowment fund, has been invested in 6 per cent. bonds of E. & N. A. R. R. Company. The investments for this fund now amount to $134,300 producing a revenue annually of $8,458.

The report of the Farm Superintendent follows that of the Trustees, giving a detailed account of the various experiments made of a practical character, the stock kept, products of the farm, improved agricultural machinery which has been added, &c. The labor system has worked well. The sum of the charges against fifteen students who have been at the college quite constantly during the past year, amounts to $1,939.41. Of this sum they have paid in work $800.41. In earning this sum there was no interruption in the studies.

ANOTHER AWFUL STEAMBOAT DISASTER. A dispatch from Memphis, 28th ult., says that the steamer W. R. Arthur, from New Orleans for Louisville, which left Memphis late on Friday night, exploded her boilers fourteen miles above the city, tearing away the forward part of her cabin. The boat took fire and burned until the bow of the steamer sank. The account continues:

The night was very dark, and after the explosion most of the passengers rushed to the lower deck, many in confusion jumping into the river. When the bow sank the waves swept from the lower deck all who had gathered there. Capt. B. Kolaski, the commander, says that he had entered half an hour before the explosion, and felt himself lifted up and knocked down by the stairs of the "Texas," which fell upon him. He extricated himself, got an axe, and cut his way out, gaving himself, wife and child, whom he took to the ladies' cabin, and left in charge of Alexander Frazer. The boat took fire several times, but the captain with the assistance of several others, succeeded in extinguishing it. Had the cabin passengers remained in the cabin, all would have been saved. But owing to fright nearly all rushed down stairs. The captain's leg was badly twisted and he had several contusions on his head. His wife and her sister were seriously hurt. Capt. J. A. Frazier, of Cincinnati, a passenger, says that he and his wife were in bed, but not asleep, when the explosion took place. He ran out on the guard and seeing the state of affairs, he hastened to the cabin and found that all the ladies except his wife and Mrs. Brotiski, had left. Seeing that the life boat had been taken away, he turned his attention to putting out the fire. His feet were badly frozen, but beyond that he and his wife were uninjured.

About 5 o'clock this morning, Capt. Dalke, of the tug Report, heard a man shouting on the river. A skiff was sent out and the man rescued from a cotton bale. He was one of the survivors. Steam was raised on the tugs Little Grant and Report, and the ferry boat Excelsior, which went to the scene and picked up several persons from cotton bales and planks on their way, and brought all that could be found to the city. Many were half dead, and a large number were badly hurt. Seventy-five persons are certainly saved, but many of them are badly bruised, scalded or frozen. It is believed that eighty-seven lives were lost by the disaster.

☞ A race in the harbor of Havre between the cutter of the United States steamer Shenandoah and the British war steamer Helicon was won by the American crew in the fastest time on record, for a contest of that description.

☞ The subject of Rev. Mr. Moor's sermon, at the Winthrop Street Universalist Church, next Sunday evening will be, *Probation—False and True.*

☞ The Chicago papers chronicle the arrival at the Sherman House of the Hon. R. D. Rice, "a famous man from Maine."

For the Maine Farmer.

### "Both Sides" Again.

It seems, Mr. Editor, that you and I have accomplished some good by agitating the school law question, for it has set one man, at least, our friend the "School Agent," to thinking. I am very glad to hear from him. Good can but result from fair, full discussion. He seems to feel a little sore at what he deems "not easy to go down," in the article alluded to. It is but justice that I may be allowed to say a few words in reply to the attempted dissection and refutation of some passages in my former communication.

The first point attempted by our friend is, that Agents have more interest than School Committees in the welfare of the schools. That agents generally have families and scholars to send, therefore more interest than the committee who is designated as a stranger; overlooking the important fact that the committee may reside in the same district, and also send scholars to the same school. This argument applies equally to both, therefore cannot be restricted to the Agent wholly.

"Why should agents not know the peculiar needs and wants of their own districts, and the kind of teachers required for their own schools?" There is no good reason why they *should* not, but it is an established fact that they *do not*. And why? First, because they seldom, if ever visit the schools, to learn by observation and personal presence the state and standing of the same. Second, because as many of them are parents as our friend suggests, they share in the general lack of interest that is the source of so many evils existing in our schools. Third, they do not take the pains to inform themselves upon the needs and peculiarities of the schools, as committees do, who are chosen by the town for this very purpose, and are held responsible by the people of the town for the right discharge of those duties. Fourth, the agents are often prejudiced in favor of the one they hire, even before they do hire. Allowing committees to be so, the prejudice of one supervisor or three members of committees would hardly offset the prejudice of six, eight, ten or more agents in this matter.

The facility with which our friend tortures and twists some of my sentences, to make them express their darkest shades of meaning, can but be admired by adepts. He attempts to make a good deal of capital out of my use of the word *policy*. It is evident he thoroughly understands all its bearings, and I hope is enabled to shun all that he deplores. I applied it as a general statement, of which School Committees were not exempt. I will now restrict its application from one class, that of School Agents, for of course "those that live in glass houses wouldn't throw stones."

Our mutual friend doubts the statement that schools have improved under the new dispension—and here let me state that doubting appears to be his forte. I will give the official figures as I find them in the *Progressive Age*, from Supervisor Luce, of Waldo County—"Gain in length of schools, four per cent. Improvement of the schools, twenty-five per cent." Perhaps my friend will attribute these statements to *policy*. I would add that I believe them facts, and if they are indeed so, then it is the right kind of *policy*, that even School Agents must endorse.

Why should not the other counties show as good a record as Waldo? The same agencies have been at work, the same force of School Agents have doubted, and the same number of the *people* have not "swallowed."

Massachusetts is accused of being fickle, and we are represented as taking her as a guide. I would ask my friend if she has not proved a good guide? She led our destinies till we were enabled to "walk alone" as a State. If she had not been "fickle," we should be British Colonies to-day. If she had not been "fickle," American freedom would still have been a myth. Because we abandon an old institution in hope for a better, we are called foolish dreamers, and *fickle*. We do not contend that Massachusetts is infallible; we do not preach that any man is perfect, or combination of men unerring; but we *do* advocate progression, improvement, and a higher stand-point. We can only attain this by judicious efforts and timely attempts.

We have looked in vain for that "other side" in our friend's article. We can discover but little except attempts at refutation. We should be pleased to have his arguments in favor of his position, if arguments he has.

He does not give us his views upon the proposed reform of abolishing the districts, of which my former article spoke, but devotes his time and energies to bolster up his position as School Agent, and tear down that of the present law. It may be as our friend predicts about the law, and School Committees may be actuated by the love of money, of which, let us hope, School Agents, at least, are exempt.

JOHN DEWBERRY.

MT. WASHINGTON IN WINTER. The following graphic description of Mt. Washington in winter, from one of the party now engaged in making scientific observations there, will interest our readers:

"We have been among the White Mountains in summer, but were never impressed with the full glory of mountain scenery until we ascended Mount Washington during the frosts of winter. On the road from the White Mountain House the peak resembles a dome of ice, and is constantly before us during a seven mile snow shoe tramp to its base. The first part of the ascent is made through woods, and over five feet of snow. The trees, which in summer were festooned with moss, are now covered with ice, so that they charm the eye as they sparkle in the light of the sun.

As we proceeded the trees grew more stunted, the snow less deep, and the ice more abundant, until we leave the last trace of vegetation behind, and find ourselves enveloped in a cloud. Our range of vision is limited to a few rods; the ice begins to form on our clothes and hair, and the wind whistles on our backs; but the frost work is increasing in splendor; it forms on everything it touches, and to a thickness of fifteen or twenty inches. The trestle work of the railroad would bring to mind the interior of a magnificent cathedral, adorned with cut glass and crystal. Lizzie Bourne's monument is a single dome of ice, surmounted by a crystal cross. We at last reach the house, a large mass of snow and ice, through which a square hole is cut for an entrance. A small room in the interior furnishes us with warmth, food and the hearty welcome of friends, and we wait for the breaking of another day. Our hopes for the morning are fulfilled; the sun rises in a cloudless sky, lighting up hundreds of snowy peaks, which glitter in its rays like polished silver, contrasting strangely with the dark valleys below. Far away in the east we see the ocean, under the rays of the rising sun, and in the west we catch a dim outline of Lake Champlain, while from the centre of Maine Mt. Katahdin rises in sight. A visit to the Tip Top and Summit Houses reveals only huge masses of frost, over which one can walk in any direction. The whole mountain top is covered with it, forming on every rock and building, to be blown off and collected in Tuckerman's ravine, 2000 feet below. A small amount of exercise makes one feel wearied in the rarified air of 6300 feet elevation, so we return to the house to rest and enjoy a good coal fire. The wind is blowing at the rate of fifty miles an hour, making the stove rattle and shake, but the heavy coating of frost prevents its intrusion.

At night we are favored with brilliant auroral displays, forming an arch over the heavens, and each day some new development of frost-work or landscape is before our eyes. We are shut out from the world, but we have the beauties of nature all around us.

In the observatory we occupy ourselves with reading, writing, and attending to the domestic duties of this Crusoe life, while in good weather we obtain our needed exercise, by sliding, snow-balling, or roaming over the mountain. Thus we pass the time, until a day arrives in which we can descend the mountain, and exchange an Arctic for a temperate zone."

☞ The expenses of the State Educational department for the past year have been reported by the Finance Committee of the Legislature as follows: County Supervisors, $16,361; Institutes, $3,802; salaries of the Superintendent and clerk, including the travelling expenses of the Superintendent, $3,500; printing, binding and postage, $3,771; total, $27,436. The expenditures exceeded the appropriation by only $166.

## Maine Legislature.

Since our last record, quite a number of bills have passed, mostly of a private character. Wednesday of the present week was the last day for the presentation of petitions for private legislation. The principal legislation of the past week may be summed up as follows:

Among the petitions are several from Portland ladies for a State Industrial School for girls. Another for the repeal of the law relating to the inspection of smoked herring. Also that the March term of the S. J. Court of Somerset county may be held at Skowhegan. Also charter for a railroad from Danville Junction through Gray and Windham to the Portland & Rochester railroad to Gorham, and also for pecuniary aid to enable the Children's Home in Bangor to continue and extend its benefactions to children throughout the State.

Among the orders of inquiry referred, are the following:

What further legislation is needed to protect our forests from destruction by fire.

Of amending the law so that a certain amount of stock shall be subscribed for in good faith, and a certain per centage of the amount actually paid in to all railroad corporations, before towns or cities shall be authorized to loan their credit, subscribe for stock, or in any way aid such corporations in any railroad enterprise.

To provide for notice to towns on petition for increased damages by reason of the laying out, widening or altering of town ways.

Authorizing the payment by the State of a sum per head upon all scholars between the ages of four and twenty-one years, to such town or school districts as maintain an effectual system of graded schools, as an inducement to towns to adopt the system.

Introducing military tactics into our common schools.

Making the chairman of the Superintending School Committee in each town, the town Supervisor during his third year of service.

Authoring towns to take eligible sites for the erection of soldiers' monuments in the same manner that land is taken for ways, and with the same rights of appeal.

To prevent spendthrifts from wasting their estates.

That savings bank may make loans to their trustees in amounts not exceeding five thousand dollars.

Of establishing a January term of S. J. Court in Lincoln county, and changing the time of holding the April term.

Relating to protecting free bridges from injury by droves of cattle.

Allowing Presidents of savings banks to receive compensation for official services.

Of enlarging the powers of constables in the service of civil process.

Of requiring foreign fire insurance companies having a place of business in cities, or towns in Maine, where there is an organized fire company, to pay a small per centage of all premiums obtained for risks in those cities or towns to the municipal authorities thereof to be added pro rata to the pay of firemen.

Altering the laws in relation to the election of superintending school committee, so that they may be elected for only one year instead of three years as now.

To protect owners of lands by reason of the location of school owners.

So as to include mechanical drawing among the branches of learning required to be taught in the public schools.

Defining or extending the powers and duties of the Railroad Commissioners in regard to requiring railroad companies to maintain stations or depots for freight or passengers where the public convenience and necessity, in their opinion, require it.

Allowing towns to vote at their annual meetings to permit cows and other neat beasts to go at large in the whole or a specified part of the time.

Enlarging the fees of town clerks.

Increasing the number of fish commissioners and giving them exclusive jurisdiction over the construction of fishways.

The House has concurred in the action of the Senate in passing the resolve providing for the Maine State Year Book.

The Senate having declined to confirm the action of the House in extending the time of the going into effect of the new revised statutes beyond February first, our new code of laws went into operation on that day.

The several county delegations have been instructed to make no alterations in the aggregate valuation of counties.

The proposition that manufacturing property exempted from town taxation, be excluded from State valuation was killed; also the proposition to change the law so that jurors shall be under the age of sixty instead of seventy, the proposition to allow appeals to be taken to the S. J. Court from the decisions of joint boards of County Commissioners relating to county ways has met with the same fate, and so has the proposition to exempt cows from taxation and tax carriages, harnesses, &c., and the attempt to impose a tax on dogs. An attempt to abolish the Superior Court of Cumberland County has failed. Also proposition to change the law governing the elections of selectmen, so as to enable towns to choose each year one selectman only, who shall hold office three years. Legislation has been reported inexpedient relating to the repeal of the law of 1867 authorizing cities and towns to loan money in aid of railroads; also on limiting the time that Judges of Courts shall be allowed to confine jurors after notice that they are unable to agree.

The Wesleyan Methodist Society in this city have received authority to borrow money, while an act of incorporation has been given for St. Mark's Home in Augusta, the institution recently established for poor and indigent women.

The transfer of the Bangor, Oldtown and Milford railroad has been made valid, while the Bangor & Piscataquis railroad company have been given further time to complete their road, and the Passamaquoddy railroad company has been chartered.

A bill has been reported enabling the banks of this State to become banking associations under the laws of the United State.

The bill authorizing towns and cities to hold money in trust for certain useful purposes has passed to be engrossed. This bill authorizes any town or city to receive money by donation or legacy, in trust for benevolent, religious, literary or educational purposes.

A bill has been reported exempting women from arrest and imprisonment from debt.

The directors of the Leeds and Farmington railroad want authority to issue bonds on their road.

Joshua Nye and several other gentlemen ask for an act of incorporation as the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars.

A law is asked for authorizing the Court to permit female libellants to resume their maiden names when a divorce is granted.

Authority is wanted to connect the Somerset & Kennebec railroad with the Maine Central road at Waterville.

A new bill has been reported providing for a medical council in this State. It is to consist of seven persons. All persons who pass a satisfactory examination have their names registered and receive a diploma. The condition of admission to practice does not depend upon any theory of medicine. Practitioners whose names are not registered after Jan. 1, 1873, are fined.

A bill has been reported allowing manufacturing corporations to flow lands located on tide waters without the consent of owners, and referring the question of damages to the county commissioners.

A bill has also been reported authorizing the International Telegraph Company to extend its lines beyond the limits of the State to Washington.

Mr. Pike of Calais, has presented a bill for the formation of railroad corporation under a general law.

THREE SCOUNDRELS CONVICTED. We learn from the Rockland *Gazette* that the trial of Wm. E. Cunningham, Eben Dodge, and Edward A. Wright for rape committed upon the person of Caroline A. Davis, at Somerville, on the 5th of Oct. last, was concluded on Monday last at Wiscasset, and resulted in a general verdict of guilty. The *Gazette* says:

The details of the crime as exhibited by the evidence, were simply atrocious, and the character of the defence was little less infamous than the crime itself. The verdict brands it as a mass of perjury and corruption which must have been as revolting to the jury as it was to the public in attendance. County Attorney Farington conducted the case for the government with signal ability, and great praise is awarded him for his closing argument which was a model of its kind, clean, clear and polished, a merciless exposure of the wickedness and corruption of the defendants and their witnesses, a triumphant vindication of the character of Miss Davis, an unanswerable presentation of the case of the government, and a most eloquent appeal for the protection of society from the attacks of drunken and licentious scoundrels. The community is to be congratulated that the corrupting influences, which in other States too often prevent the conviction and punishment of the greatest offenders, have no effect upon juries in this State, but criminals of every grade and station are sure to receive just retribution for their crimes, and society the full measure of protection that results from a firm and unsullied administration of the laws.

☞ Gen. S. F. Hersey of Bangor, offers to be one of ten to give $1,000 each for the establishment of a public library in that city.

## Items of Maine News.

The Biddeford *Democrat* says Ole Bornemann Bull, the Norwegian violinist, who has charmed the public in all parts of the world with his wonderful performances on the violin, has bought George H. Shapleigh's residence and farm, situated one mile north of the West Lebanon Academy. He paid $6500 for the property, and has a gang of workmen remodeling the house. As soon as the arrangements are complete he will occupy the premises.

The *Argus* learns that an aged lady named Kimball, living in Hollis, was fatally burned a day or two since by her clothes taking fire, while she was standing by the stove. Being cold, she got up from her bed, standing back to the stove. Her dress caught fire, and she did not know it; but got back into bed, which was soon in flames. Help quickly arrived, but she was horribly burned.

Mrs. Jane Carr, the oldest person in the State, died in Searsport last week, aged 104 years. She was born in Londonderry, Ireland, and came to this country thirty-four years ago.

The Machias *Union* says the house, barn and out-buildings owned and occupied by Mr. Ellsworth Bridgham at Plantation No. 14, were entirely destroyed by fire, early on Saturday morning of last week. Nothing was saved from the house; some of the farm stock was saved. Loss not less than $2000.

Maj. Stillman Noyes, aged 76 years and 7 months, died suddenly in Jay, on the 18th inst. He was in his usual health until Wednesday evening about 7 o'clock. A man who lived in the vicinity called at his door, and gave him a very threatening communication. He very soon went out, and after some fifteen or twenty minutes was found dead and lying upon his face. There was a severe bruise on his temple and on the right side of his face. The appearance of the body did not reveal cause for such result.

A gentleman walking along Hammond street, Bangor, on Sunday, had a new hat taken from his head by the wind. A big Newfoundland dog joined the chase for the hat, seized it, and, before it could be taken from him, had made shoddy of it. Next day the gentleman met the dog, wheedled and conxed him to the watch-house, and told the policeman in charge to hang on to the dog until his owner comes and pays for the hat. If no one claims him, punch a hole in him.

The Rockland *Press* says Tuesday evening of last week, Enos Walsh, a laboring man, after returning from down town, engaged in conversation with his wife about affairs of the evening; suddenly he ceased talking, his head fell upon his shoulder, and he expired immediately.

The *Mail* states that the house and stable of Mr. B. Pollard, in Winslow, near Ticonic bridge, was burned, on Friday night, Jan. 20. Most of the furniture and clothing were saved. Loss about $800; insured for $600.

The Bath *Times* says that Mr. Varney of Bowdoinham, who was so severely injured, some time since, by the falling of a tree, remains in a very precarious condition.

John Benner, of Nobleboro', while driving his team one day last week, accidentally slipped and fell under his loaded sled, which passed over him, killed him almost instantly.

Monday morning the farm buildings, consisting of house, three barns and out-buildings of H. K. Wheeler, of Weld, were burned. There were also burned twenty-nine head of cattle, and seventy-five sheep, with a large quantity of hay and grain. Loss about $8000, on which is some insurance.

Isaac Tarr, living on the west side of the river, three miles above Wiscasset, was frozen to death on Monday forenoon of last week. He fell through the ice while crossing the river to cut wood, and when found had been in the water, standing breast high in the ice nearly an hour. He died a few moments after being taken out. His struggles must have been fearful, as his clothing was nearly torn off by the edges of the ice. He was about 60 years of age.

The *Argus* says that Wednesday at midnight, in front of that office a young man, beastly intoxicated, was being carried to the station, and following him was his wife, with a babe of a few months in her arms. The mother had also been imbibing, but with maternal instinct, abjured her husband not to break the bottle from which the child obtained its lacteal subsistence. This with the thermometer ten degrees below zero. Two other children of eight and four years were at home, perhaps suffering from the cold, with no one to care for them.

On Wednesday, says the Kennebec *Journal*, a pair of horses, valued at $1400, owned by Barker Perry of Dresden, while at work at Russell's houses, Richmond, on the ice, by some means became frightened, and before they could be arrested, plunged into the icy canal, and were swept under the ice.

A saw mill belonging to Messrs. Copeland, Duren & Co., at Milltown, was burned down on Saturday night, Jan. 31. Loss $6000; insured for $3000. Also a shingle mill, owned by Messrs. Gates & Wentworth. Loss $5000; insured for $2000. They also lost $700 worth of shingles.

Fletcher's block in Anson came near being destroyed last Thursday evening—a little boy having carried a lighted lamp into a clothes room in one of the tenements, the flames of which communicated to the clothing, hanging there. Every article was destroyed, but by timely assistance the block was saved.

In the case of Lyford vs. Cutler, in which references gave a decision of $11,834 for plaintiff, exceptions are taken, and the case goes up to the law court.

Mr. Turner Small, of Wellington, aged 21 years, while in a logging swamp at Beach river, was killed Jan. 20, by trees coming in contact. He lived only one hour, says the Lewiston *Journal*.

The *Chronicle* says Mrs. Eda Thompson, of Jay, a lady about 70 years of age, while engaged in her housework, had a paralytic shock one day recently, and fell to the floor. She remained in this condition until the day following, when she died.

As a first step toward the removal of the county seat of Somerset county petitions are in circulation for the holding of one term of court at Skowhegan.

The Androscoggin *Herald* says James Staples, of South Casco, in his 71st year, ate an apple and planted the core, and has lived to eat fruit five years from a tree that grew from it.

Turner Small of Wellington, aged 22 years, was instantly killed at Moosehead Lake by the falling of a tree on the 17th inst.

Charles Burden of Wellington, hauled 70 bushels of potatoes to Dexter, on one of the late cold days, and when he arrived there his potatoes were frozen hard as rocks.

The Belfast *Journal* says the fossil jawbone found under a stump in Northport, as related by the *Progressive Age*, is supposed to have belonged to a first cousin of the Cardiff giant. It is to be presented to the surviving members of the Antiquarian Society of Bangor, that once set out from Owl's Head in search of the owl's tail.

Nine Swedes, consisting of three adults and six children arrived at New Sweden last week. They are from New York, where they resided for a year.

Portland harbor was so frozen up, on Tuesday morning of last week, that a vessel in mid harbor had to be cut out. It about all passed out during the day.

Prof. George L. Goodale has been re-appointed State Assayer.

Mr. Wm. Simpson, of Calais, dropped dead while at work in his barn on the 20th inst.

A woman by the name of Fitzgerald was burned to death last week in Milltown

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

## Foreign News.

### THE WAR IN EUROPE.

### THE CAPITULATION OF PARIS.

A THREE WEEKS ARMISTICE DECLARED.

**The Rumored Terms of Capitulation.**

Versailles, Jan. 24.—Evening. [Special to New York *Herald*.] Favre is reported as discussing terms of capitulation with Bismarck. The German demands are said to be: That the forts are to be garrisoned by German regulars, and the Gardes Mobiles sent to Germany. The province of Champagne to be held as a pledge of the payment of war expenses. Alsace and Lorraine to be yielded to Germany. Paris to receive no garrison for its protection. The city to be confined to the National Guards, who are not to be disarmed.

The Germans will then negotiate terms of peace, and France be left to reconstruct its government. The propositions are combatted on the side of the French as too severe. It is unknown at this hour what abatement may take place.

**Favre's Interview with Bismarck.**

Brussels, Jan. 25. (*World's* special.) At the interview of Favre and Bismarck yesterday, the latter insisted that the surrender be signed by the whole Provisional Government. Favre replied that it would be impossible to bind the Bordeaux Government, as he surrendered only the military. Bismarck then said if the Republic rejects the terms, and the Empire accepts, you must choose between acceptance and the restoration of the Emperor.

**Paris Anxious to Capitulate.**

Versailles, Jan. 24. Jules Favre is here. He proposes the capitulation of Paris and the garrison, with the honors of war. The terms are not deemed admissible. The attack on St. Denis and the disaster of the 19th, mainly led to the resolution to ask for terms.

London, Jan. 25. The *Times* says if Favre refuses an unconditional surrender and will not end the war on the German terms, Bismarck, who has in his possession the full acceptance of these terms by the French Emperor and Empress, will threaten to restore Napoleon.

**The Capitulation of Longuy.**

London, Jan. 25—1.30 P. M. A dispatch has just been received here announcing the capitulation to-day of the Fortress of Longuy, on the Belgian border, which has been besieged for a long time by the Germans. Four thousand prisoners of war and two hundred guns fell into the hands of the victors.

**Another Garibaldian Victory.**

London, Jan. 25. A dispatch from Dijon says that the Garibaldians have routed a detachment of German Landwehr who were guarding the railroad and the villages of Fonteux and Burgundy.

**What the Pope Demands.**

Rome, Jan. 25. The Ambassadors of Austria and North Germany, in compliance with instructions from their various governments, inquired of Antonelli what guarantees the Pope would regard sufficient on the part of the Italian Government to remove his dissent to the civil and religious authorities. Antonelli replied that by order of the Pope he had intimated to the Court of Rome that his Holiness wished no guarantees but their pure and simple restitution of the territories of the church and the Neapolitan frontier of the Po. He would accept no arrangement not based on these conditions.

**Great Excitement at Berlin---The Peace Rumors.**

Berlin, Jan. 25. The report of the arrival of Favre at Versailles, and that he was received to-day, created great excitement, although at present it is not officially confirmed.

All public offices and business generally is suspended, the employees being anxious for news. The general belief in well informed circles is that the rumors of negotiations looking toward the capitulation are true, from the fact that Favre's presence at Versailles is undoubted.

**Riot in Paris.**

London, Jan. 26. [*Herald* special.] Advices from Paris to the 23d inst. have been received. The evening of yesterday, 128 days since the commencement of the siege, witnessed for the first time since the investment, a scene which all have been dreading more or less every day during the dreary four months. There has been bloodshed in the streets of Paris, not from the shells of the besiegers, but by the acts of those reckless adventurers who all along have sought a siege, and miseries and misfortunes to the country, for the advance of their own interests.

Saturday night a crowd of citizens in Belleville and other quarters, who have been threatening mischief since the failure of the sortie of the 19th inst., gathered around the prison of Mazas, where Flourens, Milliers and other political prisoners were incarcerated, and after various riotous demonstrations, gathering courage in the absence of opposition, made a regular attack upon the prison and beat down the gates with sledgeons, stones and iron bars.

The jailor and turnkeys fled for their lives, leaving the jail free to the rioters, who opened the cells, releasing their inmates, until they found Flourens, Milliers and their companions, who were borne forth in triumph, amid cries of "A bas Favre," "A bas Trochu."

After parading the streets the ruffianly crowd stopped. Flourens made a descent upon Mairie in the 20th arondissement, intending to establish the headquarters of a revolutionary movement, which should extend over the whole city.

However, the parade failed to draw any large numbers of followers into active co-operation, and finding those who were willing to plunge into a revolution badly armed, the rioters abandoned Mairie, after seizing 2000 rations of bread ready for distribution among the starving population of Belleville. Before dispersing, Flourens called upon all present to make an oath to meet Sunday noon in front of the Hotel de Ville, and there demand possession of the Government in the name of the people.

At noon in accordance with their pledge, about 200 of the most repulsive and villanous looking ruffians in the city, including a large number of soldiers and the 101st war battalion of National Guards, marched in a body to the place in front of the Hotel de Ville, uttering revolutionary cries and calling upon the citizens to arm.

A *Tribune* special dispatch of the 23d from Paris, says a detachment of three hundred National Guards attacked the Hotel de Ville. The Mobiles defended it, and were firm. The affair lasted a quarter of an hour. An official report gives five killed and eighteen wounded. The attempt created a reaction, and was completely suppressed.

The deaths last week in Paris were 4465.

**A Sad Spectacle.**

Saarbruck, Jan. 25. Several trains of French prisoners from St. Quentin were halted at the station to-day and yesterday, on their way to the interior. Some were wounded, and all were haggard in the extreme, and many were suffering from hunger. Youths under 20 and men over 40 were in the convoy. Some were in a shocking condition, and excited a feeling of sympathy in the hearts of the German people on the platform when the convoy arrived.

**Bourbaki Hemmed In.**

Berlin, Jan. 25. The army of Gen. Manteuffel is crossing the Doulis in the rear of Bourbaki, who is being driven into a dangerous position, and is certain either to capitulate or escape into Switzerland.

**The Surrender of Paris---The Capitulation Signed---Official Confirmation---Restoration of the Bonapartes.**

Washington, Jan. 29. Secretary Fish has received the following telegram from Mr. Moran, Charge d'Affairs at London, dated London, Sunday morning Jan. 29: "The German ambassador here has officially informed me that the capitulation of all the Paris forts and an armistice for three weeks by land and sea, was signed at about 8 o'clock last evening at Versailles by Bismarck and Favre. The army of Paris will remain prisoners of war in the city, but it is not known whether they are to be disarmed or not. No details have yet been received.—Bermstaff thinks it important that the armistice extends over the sea and it should be made known as widely as possible."

Versailles, Jan. 27. [Special to New York *World*.] The terms for the capitulation of Paris provide for the possession of the forts around Paris by the Germans, but no occupation of the city by them, and the Prince Imperial to be the future Emperor with the Empress as regent. A large force will be immediately dispatched in pursuit of Chanzy.

Versailles, Jan. 25. [Special to New York *Herald*.] Paris will probably capitulate unconditionally. The defenders will be made prisoners of war, and then a plebiscite will be taken for the choice of government, which will truly represent France and with which Germany can treat. The terms offered by Bismarck are as follows:—1st, the cession of Alsace and German Lorraine; 2d, a money indemnity of over one thousand millions; 3d, forty war ships of the French fleet; 4th, one of the colonies now held by France. The money indemnity must be guaranteed by the municipalities. If the guarantee is refused, the property of rich individuals will be held possession of till acquiescence is obtained.

On the morning of the 23d, a flag of truce left the French lines and was met by the Germans. The bearer delivered a letter from Favre, addressed to Bismarck, at noon. The missive reached Versailles and was placed in the hands of Bismarck. It requested permission for Favre to come to Versailles. Bismarck replied that he might at 10 o'clock the same night. The Prussian premier applied to the Emperor of Germany for permission to hold an interview with him. Favre spent the night at the headquarters of the Lieutenant of Police. Next day, before noon, (Jan. 24th,) a council of war was held to consider Favre's mission. Von Roon, Bismarck, Von Moltke, and the Crown Prince were present in addition to the Emperor William, who presided. The council lasted two hours and the result of the deliberations was communicated to Favre, who returned to Paris at half past four o'clock the same evening.

**The Fortifications Occupied by Germans.**

Versailles, Jan. 29. The German troops occupied the forts around Paris at 10 o'clock this morning. The entire garrison of Paris except the national guard, surrendered their arms.—The armistice expires on the 19th of Febuary.

**Official Announcement of the Surrender to the Empress Augusta.**

London, Jan. 29. 4 30 P. M. The Emperor has sent the following dispatch to the Empress Augusta:

Versailles, 2 P. M. Sunday. Last night an armistice for three weeks was signed. The regulars and mobiles are to be retained in Paris as prisoners of war. The national guard will undertake the maintenance of order. We occupy all the forts. Paris remains invested, but will be allowed to revictual as soon as the arms are surrendered. The National Assembly is to be summoned to meet at Bordeaux in a fortnight. All the armies in the field will retain their respective positions. The ground between the the opposing lines will be neutral. This is the reward of patriotism, heroism and great sacrifices. Thank God for this fresh mercy. May peace soon follow.

(Signed) WILLIAM.

**The Movement for the Empire.**

[Special to N. Y. *World*.] A strong influence is at work favoring the restoration of the imperial family under a regency, composed of the Empress, Trochu and Favre. The Emperor William will return to Berlin Tuesday, leaving the Crown Prince in command. Provisions for Paris are being forwarded via Dieppe. The capitulation and armistice settle nothing politically, nor do they assure the end of the war.—All depends upon the assembly.

**The Germans Fortifying Themselves.**

Versailles, Jan. 29. [Special to *Herald*.] Fort Valarien was entered last night by the Prussian engineers to draw the mines. Heavy guns will be immediately moved into the forts as ancient and strongly armed as no confidence can be placed in the fickle population of Paris until after a general disarming. Strong forces of infantry and artillery moved forward to cover the working of parties. The object is to spare further blood-shed and give opportunity for the French people, through the assembly of their representatives to decide for war or peace. Elections will be permitted in all departments, together with free circulation of deputies through the country. The army of Paris, the regiments of line, marines and mobiles are to be prisoners of war with the exception of 12,000 men required to maintain order in Paris.—All the corps of France Tieurs are to be dissolved but the National Guard will remain armed. The French will deliver their arms and flags and field artillery at Suran. The French may retire into Paris unarmed. The cannon of the forts are to be delivered up but the guns are to be dismantled and the carriages given to the Prussians, but the guns themselves left. Paris will remain completely invested from a military point of view, but three railway lines are to be repaired and permitted to convey supplies for the daily nourishment of the population.

Bourbaki's army and the fortress of Belfort are not comprehended in the armistice. The Prussians' line of demarcation for the southern armies is to be the line of the Loire. Favre returned to Paris yesterday evening. It is reported that not more than a week's rations remain in Paris at the present time.

**A Cordon around Paris.**

Versailles, Jan. 30. [Special to *World*.] A cordon has been drawn around Paris and no person is allowed to enter or leave without a permit from the German authorities. The revictualing will proceed under German supervision. Confidence is expressed at German headquarters that peace has been secured. The German soldiers are chagrined at being prohibited from entering Paris.

**Location of the French Armies.**

Bordeaux, Jan. 30. Chanzy's headquarters are at La Val. The 15th, 16th, 19th and 25th corps are at Vierzon, Bourges and Nevers. Bourbaki has the 18th, 20th and 24th corps at Roulands and Partarlier. Garibaldi is at Dijon with 30,000 men. The camps of instruction contain 250,000 men. The conscripts of 1871 number 300,000 men. At the end of the armistice France will resume war with 900,000 men.

**A Feeling of Relief.**

Versailles, Jan. 29—Morning. [Special to *Herald*.] As the facts concerning the negotiations develop, a better feeling is evident among both French and Germans, all begin to agree in hoping for a termination of the war. The French are especially well pleased at the apparent modification of the German desire to humiliate them by a triumphal entry into the city.

**Interview Between Bismarck and Favre.**

The negotiations between Bismarck and Favre form one of the most interesting chapters in the history of this memorable war. The arrival of Favre was known to none except those immediately concerned in condueting him through the lines. On his arrival at the quarters occupied by Bismarck, in Rue Provence, he was immediately admitted to the presence of Bismarck. After a few preliminary remarks Bismarck said: "Well, Monsieur Favre, what is the object of this visit?" Favre, much affected, replied: "The object is to put a stop to the terrible suffering of the country; for now that hope of relief from without seems lost, Paris must needs seek peace. All we ask is such consideration as a generous enemy might give without loss of advantage or honor." Bismarck expressed his desire to do all in his power to show respect for the sufferings and gallantry of the French nation consistent with the safety, honor and interest of united Germany. He said this had been from the first to the last the object and desire of the Emperor and all his advisers since the commencement of the unhappy war was forced upon them. Favre first demanded the terms already reported. Bismarck replied: "It is not in my province to refuse to accept terms, but I must say the present proposals are such that I cannot myself approve of them, and I feel confident my august master will reject them. However, it is my duty to submit them to his consideration." After this formal business Bismarck assumed the familiar and sociable air for which he is famous, and invited Favre to partake of refreshments, adding:—"From all reports you are not well supplied inside the city." Favre consented and a good dinner was soon spread.

**The Result of the Armistice.**

The great question now seems to be what practical result will follow the armistice. I predict on what I consider good grounds that the Regency is Bismarck's thirteenth trick, by which he expects to win the game. In Favre and the Republicans he sees nothing but seeds of future trouble with France.

**Bourbaki's Army in Switzerland.**

London, Jan. 30. An official dispatch to the Baden Ministry states that the army of Bourbaki has entered Switzerland. They are crossing the border near Brumtrul.

It is the report that the attempt of Bourbaki to commit suicide is confirmed.

**Chanzy Notified of the Capitulation.**

Lomans, Jan. 31. [*World's* special.] The Prince Frederick Charles has communicated the stipulations of the armistice to Chanzy and asks whether he regards them as binding on him.

**The Armistice.**

London, Jan. 31. The armistice begins instantly at Paris and three days later in the departments and expires at noon of February 19th. The terms of capitulation are that prisoners of war remain in Paris during the armistice, having surrendered their arms. The national guards and gen d'armes retain their arms, as also the police. All Franc Tieurs will be disbanded. German prisoners will be exchanged. The public funds will remain in Paris.

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SPEED OF ICE BOATS. Probably the highest rate of speed ever attained in locomotion has been by ice-boats scudding before the wind with a cloud of canvass over a smooth expanse of ice. Upon Lake Winnebago, between Fond du Lac and towns at the opposite extremity, it is said that a speed of seventy-five or eighty miles an hour has been repeatedly witnessed, with an unobstructed surface and a high wind. The fastest motion ever achieved by the locomotive engines in England is recorded in the books as at the rate of seventy-seven miles an hour, and this only for a short distance. It is difficult to devise a mode of motion where there is less friction and less expense for power than by ice-boats.

☞The British Government have awarded a handsome gold watch and chain to Captain Morse, commanding the American ship James A. Wright, belonging to Bath, Me., for the very humane and meritorious services rendered by him to the master and crew of the English ship Malabar, on the 20th of last July, when that vessel was destroyed by fire.

## Congressional Summary.

### Forty-first Congress---Third Session.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 25.

SENATE. Senator-elect Blair, of Missouri, took the oath of office. He was appointed to fill the vacancies of the committees on the Pacific Railroads and Education and Labor.

A 1 o'clock Mr. Schurz was awarded the floor upon Mr. Trumbull's pending civil service reform-bill, but gave way temporarily to granting pensions to soldiers and sailors and widows of the deceased soldiers of the war of 1812 was taken up and read, but a debate arising on the amendment to strike out the requirement upon the pensioners to show their poverty as a condition to receiving a pension, the bill was laid aside and the income tax bill proceeded with.

Mr. Scott argued to show the inquisitorial, unconstitutional, unjust and unnecessary character of the tax. He said that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue had been erroneously represented in saying that the income tax cost more to collect it than was realized, while his actual statement was that the cost of collecting the tax exceeded that of any other revenue tax, and the accuracy of the statement was fully attested. The Commissioner recently informed him (Scott) that by the repeal 500 assistant assessors would be dispensed with at once, and the estimated diminution of expense would be 2500 per day. The irregularity of the tax was shown in the fact that of the voters of the country, not more than one in sixty-five paid this tax, while in twenty-three Congressional districts in the United States nearly one-tenth of the whole amount realized from it was not more than $1000. The bill was then informally laid aside, and the remainder of the time occupied by a protracted personal discussion between Messrs. Conklin and Fenton on matters connected with the New York Custom House and Collector Murphy's administration.

HOUSE. The Committee on Appropriations reported the fortification bill, which appropriates $1,627,000, and was made the special order for Tuesday next.

The Senate amendments to the bill declaring the meaning of the act of July 14, 1870, to reduce internal taxation, was concurred in and the bill sent to the President.

The bill was passed extending to disabled soldiers of the war of 1812 and the Mexican war the benefits of the national soldiers asylum act.

In reply to an inquiry by Mr. Brooks in regard to the meeting of the next Congress on the 4th of March, Mr. Dawes said, as the law now stood, it was obvious that there must be a session on the 4th of March. He saw no indications that the law would be repealed, much to his personal regret; and if Congress assembled on the 4th of March, he had no reasonable expectation that it would adjourn before the middle of April or the 1st of May.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the Indian appropriation bill, which appropriates $4,359,469, and after a discussion whether it was wiser and better to feed than to fight the Indians—Messrs. Dawes, Sargent, Beck and others taking the humanitarian side of the argument, and Messrs. Fitch, Cavanagh and others the opposite—the committee rose, having disposed of one half the bill, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, Jan. 26.

SENATE. The pension appropriation bill was passed, the Senate rejecting the amendment appropriating $5,000,000 for the recent increase of the pensions five per cent. authorized by Congress. The bill now goes to the President.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill repealing the income tax of Dec. 3. 1869, and Mr. Buckingham spoke of the practical defects on the law and the failure to enforce it in consequence of the neglect of the assessors to impose and collect the penalities. For these and other reasons he would vote its repeal.

The discussion continued at length, Messrs. Cole, Johnson, Thurman and Casserly favoring the repeal, and Mr. Morrill of Vermont, and Cragin and Tipton opposing it; after which the bill was passed by a vote of 26 to 25.

HOUSE. Mr. Hooper, of Massachusetts, presented a communication from Commissioner Pleasanton, recommending the unconditional repeal of the income tax, which he estimates under the tax law of the last session would produce only $12,855,000 for the current year.

Mr. Loughridge, of Iowa, introduced a bill, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee, allowing an additional representation in the 43d Congress, as follows: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Texas, Wisconsin and Kansas, 2 each; Missouri, Michigan and Iowa, 3 each; Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, California and Minnesota, 1 each, and Illinois 4. Such additional members to be elected by general tickets.

The House then took up the bill from the Committee on Military Affairs to enable honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, their widows and orphan children to acquire homesteads on public lands. The fourth section authorizes a transfer by the pensioner of his rights, privileges and benefits as a homestead settler to his agent or attorney. The bill was opposed by Messrs. Julian of Indiana, Van Wyck of New York and other members as being one that would be of little advantage to pensioners but would be a benefit only to land jobbers who would buy up at cheap rates patents for land just as was the case with the old bounty land warrants.

A bill passed for a better security of the agricultural college funds, and requiring the Secretary of the Interior to ascertain the amount of agricultural land scrip issued to each State, and the disposition made thereof, and to make a report thereon to Congress at the commencement of each regular session, and forbidding any charge in the investment of the funds without the approval of the Secretary of toe Interior. The House then went in committee of the whole on the Indian appropriation bill.

FRIDAY, Jan. 27.

SENATE. Mr. Hamlin introduced a joint resolution appointing Gen. Wm. T. Sherman a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, vice Gen. Delafield, resigned. Passed.

A motion to adjourn over Saturday prevailed, 33 to 20.

Mr. Trumbull's bill looking to the civil service reform came up as unfinished business, Mr. Schurz then proceeded to review the necessities of the civil service, and the remedies for existing abuses.

Mr. Schurz quoted from the investigation of the Retrenchment Committee into the New York custom house affairs to show the looseness of the system of political appointment. The old apple woman on the corner, whose name appeared for several months on the pay rolls as stated by Mr. Patterson, had a cousin whose political influence was propitiated in this manner. Referring to the appointment by the President of friends and acquaintances to office, he mentioned the case of a western applicant, who failing to secure a local and unimportant office was recommended by a delegation from his State for pension agent, and after failing in that undertook his own case, and being a man that must be provided for was appointed by the President as minister resident in a South American republic. That office not being high enough, the gentleman succeeded in having himself nominated as minister plenipotentiary, but he was defeated by the Senate. He was then made governor of a territory, and all this within seven days.

Mr. Schurz went on to comment upon the practice under the present symtem of manufacturing places for office holders and the practice of Congressmen threatening the heads of departments to vote against appropriations under their proteges were appointed to office. He corroborated the statement of ex-Secretary Cox as to the double dealing of Congressmen in strongly recommending to office persons in their company, and subsequently intimating privately to the heads of departments distrust of the competency of applicants and their actual feelings of indifference concerning the appointments. The atmosphere of flattery which surrounded the President and the terrorism of party discipline alike operated to prevent the exposition of abuses. It was only the other day that a Senator, for an allusion to corrupt practices in the New York custom house, had been taken to task for an attack on the Republican party. Mr. Schurz then offered as substitute the bill introduced by him at the last session for a radical reform in civil service by the system of competitive examinations. He explained and advocated the proposition as one demanded by earnest thinking men, who had at heart the true interest of the country.

Mr. Cole explained that the strictures of Mr. Schurz in connection with the San Francisco custom house had reference to the condition of that institution under a former administration.

Mr. Casserly also defended three of the collectors of the institution from the imputation in Mr. Schurz's remarks that they were defaulters.

Mr. Howard opposed the bill as destitute of any practical value in eradicating the evils complained of, and regarded Mr. Schurz's substitute as an empty vision. He would say to that Senator that the millenium when the people would not hunt for office would never come. The American people were sovereigns in this country and had the right to ask for and to hold any office. The tendency of these propositions was to build up a privileged class, a sort of office-holding aristocracy in the country and they would not be permitted to remain upon the statue books even as experiments.

Mr. Harlan moved an executive session.

Mr. Hamlin expressed the hope that the pending subject would be summarily laid on the table.

HOUSE.—Mr. Auger of Michigan introduced a bill to provide for the introduction free of duty, of animals specially imported from the Dominion of Canada for breeding purposes. Referred.

Mr. Hooper of Massachusetts offered as a question of privilege, a resolution, which was adopted without a division under a suspension of the rules, returning to the Senate the income tax repeal bill, with a respectful suggestion by the House that the constitution of the United States rests in the house of representatives the sole power to originate such measures. The House then took a recess.

SATURDAY, Jan. 28.

SENATE not in session.

HOUSE—The House met for general debate. Speeches were made by several members, on revenue civil service reform.

MONDAY, Jan. 30.

SENATE—Memorials were presented by Messrs. Fenton, Conkling and Sumner, from the Kings County, N. Y., Homœopathic and other medical societies, in reference to the establishment of a Homœopathic Medical University at Washington, Congress to make the establishment of one or more professorships of homœopathy a pre-requisite to a charter for the same.

Mr. Wilson, from the Military Committee, reported favorably the House bill extending the benefits of the Soldier's National Asylums to the soldiers of 1812 and Mexican wars.

A resolution of a majority of the Judiciary Committee, declaring Joshua F. Hill entitled to a seat as Senator from Georgia, was read.

Mr. Stewart advocated the minority report declaring that Farrow and Whiteby were elected.

Mr. Stewart then moved as a substitute for the majority resolution that of the minority, declaring that Farrow and Whiteby were entitled to seats in the Senate. Rejected, 19 to 36.

Further discussion ensued, but without disposing of the subject the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE—A bill was introduced by Mr. Morrill of Maine, declaring that any one who shall sell or give to any civil, military or naval officer of the government intoxicating liquors to be used as a beverage, shall be deemed guilty of crime against the peace of society and on conviction thereof be punished by fine or imprisonment; also providing that all employees or officers who shall continue to use intoxicating liquors or shall become at all intoxicated, shall be summarily dismissed and shall not be reinstated for two years.

The following joint resolution, introduced by Mr. Butler of Massachussetts, was passed under a suspension of the rules, 172 to 21.

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States in the name and on behalf of the people of the United States, give to J. O'Donovan Rossa, Thomas Clark Luby, Charles Underwood O'Connell, and their associates, Irish exiles, cordial welcome to the capitol, and also to the country and a copy of this resolution be transmitted them by the President of the United States.

The negative votes were given by Ambler, Bailey, Benjamin, Blair of Michigan, Dixon of North Carolina, Dixon of Rhode Island, Ferris, Hale of Maine, Hawkins, Hoar, Jenckes, Kelsey of New York, Knapp, Laflin, Peters of Maine, Pomeroy, Taffe, Tanner and Williams.

The bill passed increasing to $5 per day the compensation of the census enumerators in case where it fell below the amount.

TUESDAY, Jan. 31.

SENATE—The Vice President announced the return from the House of the income tax repeal bill, with the accompanying suggestion that under section 7 of article 1 of the Constitution the House had the sole power to originate such measures.

Mr. Scott moved to non-concur in the reasons assigned by the House for the return of the bill, and asked for a committee of conference on the difference of opinion between the two Houses as to their privileges. Messrs. Scott, Conkling and Casserly were appointed on the part of the Senate.

Mr. Pomeroy submitted and had read resolutions commending the suffering and destitute French nation to the generous sympathy and charity of the American people, and recommending to the President the stationing of a naval vessel at New York to receive and convey to their destination such supplies as may be voluntarily contributed for the relief of the French people. The resolutions went over till the morning hour to-morrow.

HOUSE—The bill reported from the Committee on Military Affairs to extend the bounty land system to the soldiers and sailors of the late war, their widows and orphans, was passed by a vote 184 to 2.

Messrs. Hooper, Allison and Voorhees were appointed to represent the House on the conference committee on the right of the Senate to originate the income tax repeal bill, the Speaker stating that the committee would have no power to consider the bill itself.

The Senate substitute for the bill abolishing the office of admiral and vice admiral in the navy was non-concurred in and a committee of conference asked.

## Special Notices.

**Unanswerable Arguments.**

Established facts are silent arguments which neither pen nor tongue can shake, and it is upon established facts that the reputation of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, as a health-preserving elixir, and a wholesome and powerful remedy, is based. When witnesses come forward in crowds, year after year, and reiterate the same statements in relation to the beneficial effects of a medicine *upon themselves*, disbelief in its efficacy is *literally impossible*. The credentials of this unequalled tonic and alterative, extending over a period of nearly twenty years, include individuals of every class, and residents of every clime, and refer to the most prevalent among the complaints which afflict and harass the human family. Either a multitude of people, strangers to each other, have annually been seized with an insane and motiveless desire to deceive the public, or Hostetter's Bitters, for no less than a fifth of a century, have been affording such relief to sufferers from indigestion, fever and ague, biliousness, general debility, and nervous disorders, as no other preparation has ever imparted. To-day, *while the pages of the reader are upon these lines*, tens of thousands of persons of both sexes are relying upon the Bitter as a sure defence against the ailments which the present season engenders, and their confidence is not misplaced. The local potions which interested dealers sometimes endeavor to foist upon the sick in its stead, are everywhere meeting the fate that is due to fraud and imposture, while the demand for the great vegetable specific is constantly increasing.

**MANY PERSONS**

Are troubled with weakness, debility, languor, and various ailments, indicating a *humorous state of the system*, to whom "POLAND'S HUMOR DOCTOR" is recommended as just what they need. It is composed of *vegetable materials*, the best to be had, and can be safely taken without fear of injury.

**For Throat Diseases and Affections of the chest, *"Brown's Bronchial Troches,"* or Cough Lozenges,** are of great value. In Coughs, Irritation of the Throat caused by cold, or Unusual Exertion of the vocal organs, in speaking in public, or singing, they produce the most beneficial results. The Troches have *proved* their efficacy.

**To Consumptives.---Many have been happy** to give their testimony in favor of the use of *"Wilbor's Pure Cod Liver Oil and Lime*. Ex₁erience has proved it to be a valuable remedy for Consumption, Asthma, Diphtheria and all diseases of the Throat and Lungs. Manufactured only by A. B. WILBOR, Chemist, No. 100 Court Street, Boston. Sold by druggists generally.

**Few People** unacquainted with physiological chemistry are aware of the quantity of iron in the blood, but all *should know* the importance of keeping up the supply, for debility, disease and death are sure to follow when the quantity becomes too much reduced. The Peruvian Syrup (a protoxide of Iron) supplies this vital element, and has cured many chronic diseases.

MUCH MISERY will be saved, and great anxiety, if when you are troubled with Throat Complaints, Weak Lungs, or Kidney troubles, you use at once the *White Pine Compound*. There is no better article in the market for these afflictions.

☞The whitest, worst-looking hair, resumes its youthful beauty, by using Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer. Try it. 1m8

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND AG'L SOCIETY.**

The Annual Meeting of the New England Agricultural Society will be held at the Meonian, under Tremont Temple, in the city of Boston, on TUESDAY, Feb. 7th, 1871, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

DANIEL NEEDHAM, Sec'y.

Boston, Jan. 23d, 1871. 3t8

## Married.

In this city, Jan. 20th, by Rev. C. F. Penney, Sylvanus Avery to Hattie M. Frane, both of Augusta.

In Hallowell, Jan. 28th, by Rev. C. Fuller, Geo. H. Howard to Mary J. Smith, both of Augusta.

In Belfast, Jan. 20th, Edwin Woodside of Webster, to S. Adelia Wasllin of Northport.

In Dexter, Jan. 23d, Sumner L. Hurd of Dover, to Odelia A. Shaw of Exeter.

In Auburn, Jan. 24th, Geo. C. Litchfield of Portland, to Mrs. S. Lord of Auburn.

In West Waterville, Jan. 21st, by G. T. Stevens, Esq., Granville W. Downs to Eliza A. Braun, both of Waterville.

In East Pittston, Dec. 27th, by Rev. J. I. Brown, Franklin Blair to Euphemia C. Merrow, both of Whitefield. Also, Jan. 1st, by the same, George O. Bailey of Alna to Ellen L. Cashman of Whitefield.

In Cushing, Jan. 14th, by Rev. G. W. Buzzell, Lawrence Parsons of Cushing, to Mrs. Susan C. Clements of Bangor. [Maine Standard, Rockland Free Press, and Republican Journal please copy.

## Died.

In Augusta, Jan. 23d, Mrs. Maria H., wife of Mr. Geo. B. Hoyt, aged 34 years; 26th, Joseph Springer, aged 64 years, 5 months; 25th, Jeremiah Thompson, aged 47 years.

In San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 16th, Wm. Hooper, Esq., aged 60 years.

In Belgrade, Dec. 7th, Sarah J., wife of Henry M. Bartlett, aged 29 years, 3 months.

In Boston, Dec. 25th, Lydia W., daughter of the late Wm. M. and Mary Maxfield of China, aged 45.

In Unity, Jan. 12th, very suddenly, Mrs. Lucinda, wife of Dea. Ephraim March, aged 70 years.

In Manchester, Jan. 21, Mrs. Mary Harvey, aged 32 years.

**LITCHFIELD ACADEMY.**

THE SPRING TERM will commence TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 21st, 1871, and continue ten weeks. For further particulars send for Circulars or Catalogues.

D. L. SMITH, Principal.

Litchfield Corner, Me., Jan. 27. 4t9

*DR. SCHENCK ADVISES CONSUMPTIVES TO GO TO FLORIDA IN WINTER.*

HAVING for the last thirty-five years devoted my whole time and attention to the study of lung diseases and consumption, I feel that I understand fully the course that ought to be pursued to restore a tolerably bad case of diseased lungs to healthy soundness. The first and most important step is, for the patient to avoid taking cold; and the best of all places on this continent for this purpose, in winter, is Florida, well down in the State, where the temperature is regular, and not subject to such variations as in more northern latitudes. Palatka is a point I can recommend. A good hotel is kept there by Peterman. Last winter I saw several persons there whose lungs had been badly diseased, but who, under the healing influence of the climate and my medicines, were getting well. One hundred miles farther down the river is a point which I would prefer to Palatka, as the temperature is more even and the air dry and bracing. Mellonville and Enterprise are located there. I should give a decided preference to Mellonville; it is two miles from river or lake, and it seems almost impoible to take cold there. The tables in Florida might be better, and patients complain at times; but that is a good sign, as it indicates a return of appetite, and when this is the case, they generally increase in flesh, and then the lungs must heal. Jacksonville, Hibernia, Orange Cove, and many other places in various parts of Florida can be safely recommended to consumptives in winter. My reasons for saying so are, that patients are less liable to take cold there than where there is a less even temperature; and it is not necessary to say, that, where a consumptive person exposes himself to frequent colds he is certain to die shortly: therefore my advice is, go well down into the State, out of the reach of prevailing east winds and fogs, Jacksonville, or almost any other of the localities I have named, will benefit those who are troubled with a torpid liver, a disordered stomach, deranged bowels, sore throat, or cough; but, for those whose lungs are diseased a more southern point is earnestly recommended.

For fifteen years prior to 1869, I was professionally in New York, Boston, Baltimore, etc., and visited Philadelphia every week, where I saw and examined on an average five hundred patients a week. A practice so extensive, embracing every possible phase of lung disease, has enabled me to understand the disease fully; and hence my caution in regard to taking cold. A person may take vast quantities of "Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Seaweed Tonic, and Mandrake Pills," and yet die if he does not avoid taking cold.

In Florida, nearly everybody is using Schenck's Mandrake Pills; for the climate is more likely to produce bilious habits than more northern latitudes. It is a well-established fact, that natives of Florida rarely die of consumption, especially those of the southern part. On the other hand, in New England, one-third at least of the population die of this terrible disease. In the Middle States it does not prevail so largely; still there are many thousands of cases there. What a vast percentage of life would be saved if consumptives were as easily alarmed in regard to taking fresh colds as they are about scarlet fever, small-pox, &c.! but they are not; they take what they term a little cold, which they are credulous enough to believe will wear off in a few days. They pay no attention to it; hence it lays the foundation for another and another still, until the lungs are diseased beyond all hope of cure.

My advice to persons whose lungs are affected, even slightly, is to lay in a stock of Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Schenck's Seaweed Tonic, and Schenck's Mandrake Pills, and go to Florida. I recommend these particular medicines, because I am thoroughly acquainted with their action. I know, that, when they are used in strict accordance with my directions, they will do the work that is required. This accomplished, nature will do the rest. The physician who prescribes for cold, cough or night-sweats, and then advises the patient to walk or ride out every day, will be sure to have a corpse on his hands before long.

My plan is, to give my three medicines in accordance with the printed direction, except in some cases where a free use of the Mandrake Pills is necessary. My object is, to give nature a chance,—to get up a good appetite. It is always a good sign when a patient begins to grow hungry; I have hopes of such. With a relish for food, and the gratification of that relish, comes good blood, and with it more flesh, which is closely followed by a healing of the lungs,—then the cough loosens and abates, the creeping chills and clammy night-sweats no longer prostrate and annoy, and the patient gets well, provided he avoids taking cold.

Now, there are many consumptives who have not the means to go to Florida. The question may be asked, Is there no hope for such? Certainly there is. My advice to such is, and ever has been, to stay in a warm room during the winter, with a temperature of about seventy degrees, which should be kept regularly at that point by means of a thermometer. Let such a patient take his exercise within the limits of the room by walking up and down as much as his strength will permit, in order to keep up a healthy circulation of the blood. I have cured thousands by this system, and can do so again. Consumption is as easily cured as any other disease, if it is taken in time, and the proper kind of treatment is pursued. The fact stands undisputed on record, that Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Mandrake Pills, and Seaweed Tonic have cured very many of what seemed to be hopeless cases of consumption. Go where you will, you will be almost certain to find some poor consumptive who has been rescued from the very jaws of death by their use.

So far as the Mandrake Pills are concerned, everybody should keep a supply of them on hand. They act on the liver better than calomel, and leave none of its hurtful effects behind. In fact, they are excellent in all cases where a purgative medicine is required. If you have partaken too freely of fruit, and diarrhœa ensues, a dose of Mandrakes will cure you. If you are subject to sick headache, take a dose of the Mandrakes, and they will relieve you in two hours. If you would obviate the effect of a change of water, or the too free indulgence in fruit, take one of the Mandrakes every night, and you may then drink water, and eat watermelons, pears, apples, plums, peaches, or corn, without the risk of being made sick by them. They will protect those who live in damp situations against chills and fevers. Try them. They are perfectly harmless. They can do you good only.

I have abandoned my professional visits to Boston and New York, but continue to see patients at my office, No. 15 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia, every Saturday, from 9 A. M. to 12 M., P. M. Those who wish a thorough examination with the Respirometer will be charged five dollars. The Respirometer declares the exact condition of the lungs; and patients can readily learn whether they are curable or not. But I despise it distinctly understood, that the value of my medicines depends entirely upon their being taken strictly according to directions.

In conclusion, I will say, that when persons take my medicines, and their systems are brought into a healthy condition thereby, they are not so liable to take cold; yet no one with diseased lungs can bear a sudden change of atmosphere without the liability of greater or less irritation of the bronchial tubes.

Full directions in all languages accompany my medicines, so explicit and clear that any one can use them without consulting me, and can be bought from any druggist.

No. 15 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

GEO. C. GOODWIN & CO., Boston, Agents. 1y50

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## Poetry.

### WHEN THE BABY DIED.

I.

When the baby died,
On every side
White lilies and blue violets were strewed;
Unreasoning the mother's heart made moan:
"Who counted all these flowers which have grown
Unhindered in their bloom?
Was there not room,
O Earth? O God couldst thou not care
For mine a little longer? Fare
Thy way, O Earth! All life, all death,
To me ceased with my baby's breath;
All Heaven I forget or doubt,
Within, without,
Is idle chance, more pitiless than law!"
And that was all the mother saw.

II.

When the baby died,
On every side
Mere strangers' voices, hard and harsh and loud,
The baby was not wrapped in any shroud,
The mother made no sound. Her head was bowed
That man's eyes might not see
Her misery;
But in her bitter heart she said,
"Ah! me, 'tis well that he is dead.
My boy for whom there was no food,
If there were God and God were good,
All human hearts at least might keep
The right to weep
Their dead. There is no God, but cruel law."
And that was all the mother saw.

III.

When the baby died,
On every side
Swift angels came, in shining singing bands,
And bore the little one, with gentle hands,
Into the sunshine of the spirit land.
And Christ, the Shepherd, said,
"Let them be led
In gardens nearest to the earth,
One mother weepeth over birth,
Another weepeth over death;
In vain all Heaven answereth,
Laughs from the little ones may reach
Their ears, and teach
Them what, so blind with tears they never saw—
That, of all life, all death, God's love is law."

—*Mrs. Heien Hunt,*

## Our Story Teller.

### Christmas Eve at Beach House.

BY MRS. LYNN LINTON.

It seemed as if the Mackenzies were under a spell, and that none of the men were ever destined to die in their beds. We sometimes see this strange law of persistent accident run through a family, and generation after generation fulfils what looks like the ordained decree, either of violent death or loss by fire, either of shipwreck or that mysterious and sudden disappearance when a person "goes under" like a stone in the water, and is never heard of again. I, who write this, know of a family where the law of "running away" has been in force for four generations; one or more lads of each brood having run away from home, school or legal master, as the case might be—some turning up again after a season of wild-oat sowing, perhaps all the better for the process, but others gone for ever, and their ultimate fate a mystery never cleared up.

The law of the Mackenzies was, as I have said, a violent end. Old Zachary the grandfather, and Michael the father, of Captain Charles, had both died of their sins, or as the traditional phrase went "died standing"; and Captain Charles himself had disappeared. He was a married man, but a wild one, according to the way of the Mackenzies; and ten years ago had been serving with a regiment in Cornwall, while his wife and two children were left behind in London. No one ever knew more of him than that he was reported absent when he should have returned to his quarters at Truro, after a week's leave; and that from that time to this he was missing, and had left no trace behind. Every effort had been made to find him, but without success, and his family had by now almost given up the hope not only of seeing him again but of knowing what his end had been; though indeed his widow, poor soul, who loved him as certain women do love scampish men, handsome, affectionate generous and unfaithful, still clung to hope against hope, and refused to wear the conventional weeds, or do more than "provisionally" administer to his effects. Still there the mystery of his fate remained, and it looked likely to remain a mystery to the end of time. Meanwhile the son grew up, and went out into the world; and now the daughter Alice had just married Walter Garwood, a young men of some means and roving habits, and so had begun life on her own account when this story opens.

Walter Garwood, an artist by temperament and a *rentier* by profession—which means of no profession at all—had one absorbing passion, namely, a love for the wild sea-coast, which he must enjoy in the most absolute solitude if he would enjoy it at all. So he took Alice down for their honeymoon to Cornwall, a country which he knew by heart so far as its coast line went, though he was not a Cornish man by birth, and the fair, delicate young London girl was soon initiated into the mysteries of loveliness to be found in rolling seas and weather-beaten crags, with a solitude almost as deep as death.

At first they lived in small towns and villages, wandering from place to place as the fancy took them, moving always farther away from any thing like "centres," till at last the proximity of a mere village seemed too close a contact with humanity, and nothing but the completest isolation would content the eremitical young artist. When therefore he heard that Beach House was vacant—a lone place among rocks and cliffs, miles away from any town, and not within call of any other gentleman's house, the nearest neighbors of which were half a dozen fishermen in a hamlet some two miles off—he resolved at once upon taking it, as a man who knows his own mind and who has found what he wants. It was in a dilapidated state enough. The garden, or what had once been the garden, was a mere tangled wilderness of weeds; the house wanted all sorts of repairs; but money and taste can do a great deal even when far removed from "centres"; and Alice was as yet too young a girl, and too fond a bride, to have a will of her own or to find a flaw in her husband's. To be sure she was a little shocked when she saw the barren, deserted, God-forgotten ruin out of which Walter meant to build her a home that was to be the most beautiful thing in England; but if he said it would be beautiful she was sure it would be so, and in her simple faith began to take a profound interest in everything about the place, and to enjoy going over superintend with her husband the alterations and improvements he was making. In time the work was done, though it had been a weary time about; but then, Cornish workmen are not the quickest in England; and just as October set in, the young people took possession, and began their home life in earnest.

It was indeed a wild and lonesome home that Walter had chosen for his wife! Sea-fowls screamed about it, and the angry waves beat up on the iron-bound coast, and every now and then a vessel, mastered by the wind, drifted close upon the rocks where lay the doom of many men; but the scene in general was of nothing but a wild waste of waters, with the bold headlands to the side running far out into the sea, and the sunset flooding the sky with gold or bathing it in blood. The house itself was set on a secondary height overshadowed by a huge cliff; so that it was just out of the reach of the highest tides, though it was drenched with the spray flung up by the storms that break so often on that fierce, northern Cornish coast. The rugged cliff that rose above seemed to shut off all access to the upper world, and the wild rough shore below was no pathway to civilization. The only road that led to or from the house was a steep, winding way but little used by all wheeled vehicles for the last six or seven years, during which time the place had been empty; consequently it had become overgrown with weeds, rutted and channelled with winter rains, and in parts unsafe as it was everywhere unsightly.

Truth to tell, Beach House had always been a difficult property to let. About eight years ago a family had taken it, after about the same length of time of desertion, but they had left it after a short term of uneasy occupation; since when it had got a bad name among the fishermen of the little hamlet, for more than the traditionary shelter it afforded to smugglers and wreckers—which indeed would not have daunted them—and he would have been a bold man who would have denied the report that it was haunted—the fishermen said, with ghost—the landsmen added, smugglers. Be that as it may, both fishermen and landsmen were shy of passing it any time after sundown; and more than one belated sinner had been scared into sobriety and religion for the rest of his life, by the nameless horror of what he had seen or heard at Beach House, somewhere about midnight.

But the Thing haunting the place was not always equally terrible. It was only about Christmas time that the worst and most deadly things happened—though indeed when you came to inquire closely, and probe deep, as to what those things were, you could find nothing more definite than, "I was skeared," and "I dunno what it were, but there was a summit"; and "I heerd a grane and a sigh, and a patter, patter of feet; and I rik."

The only man who was not afraid was Jem Penreath, and he had volunteered to take charge of the place while it was empty, and therefore made it his home, and had always kept about it. When asked if he had ever heard or seen anything, he would laugh—and his laugh was not pleasant to hear—and say, "Nay, nay, the ghosts knows me, and I know un, and they know better nor to trouble me with their nonsense, that do un!"

We may be very sure that nothing of all this was told to the new comer, Walter Garwood; and when he bought and took possession he was as innocent as a child that the place had a bad name, or that it was supposed to be haunted with ghosts or with smugglers, with the disembodied or embodied.

This Jem Penreath was a man whose character fitted in with the house he chose to guard, and whose appearance fitted in with his character. Yet he was handsome in a way; a tall, brawny, broad-shouldered man, with a reddish-brown breard; long, thick, tangled locks also reddish-brown; dark, deep-set fiery eyes, and an expression of lawless daring, that, taken in connection with his tremendous strength, made one shudder. He was known as the most reckless and defying savage of the whole district, and the strongest. Smuggling, drinking, wrecking or work that would knock up any other man—all came alike to him. He did not seem to value his life more than a rat's or a crow's, and no one's else more than his own. Every one was afraid of him; every one fought shy of him; yet none knew anything definite against him, or if they did they kept it to themselves. Folks said he had been much worse in these latter times, since Mary Mainfote so strangely disappeared some ten years ago. He had loved Mary all his life; but she had never said the word, and often told her friends she never would. She did not favor Jem Penreath's addresses, and used to say, tossing her fair head with its wealth of golden hair, that for her own part, when she had a man at all she would have one she was not afraid of, and knew the life of.

"I do not take with dark ways," she would add; and Jem Penreath's ways were unquestionably dark.

Jem swore many a time, that if she would not be his she should be no other man's; for that he would "scat the head on un," if any one dared to take what he desired. And this threat seemed to have frightened his mates; for though Mary was the prettiest girl of the fishing hamlet to which Jem belonged by birth, no man had yet made her his wife, and she was past twenty when she disappeared. The last known or seen of her was on Christmas Eve—a wild one—after she had returned from Truro, where she had been staying with an aunt. An old man—he was dead now—said he saw her walking down the rough road which led to Beach House, with a stranger and a gentlemen. He was not one of them, nor one he had ever seen before, nor a working-man in his Sunday best; he was a gentlemen, with black beard and curly hair, and he stood very upright, and they were walking down the road and talking—leastways he was talking to her as if he had summit to say very pressing—and as they got on he put his arm round her waist, and she didn't seem to say him nay.

No one else had seen them; at least no one who told anything; but there had been a pair of eyes watching them as well as old David's, only he who saw them coming down that steep rough road said less than David, and kept his own counsel—as perhaps not being able to share it.

David's tale was accepted as final; and after Mary's disappearance it was set down as a fact that she had gone off with the strange gentleman who was not known in these parts, and come to no good, poor lass! But ever since her loss, Jem Penreath, savage as he always was, had become more savage still, more reckless, more Godless, more dangerous every way; till more than once the elders of the hamlet spoke about him among themselves, and said he would do himself or some on un a mischief afore he was under grass.

For his strength was something almost terrifying; and he knew, as well as any of them, that he was master of them all when he chose to exert his authority and put out his power.

He was terribly annoyed when Beach House was sold to young Walter Garwood. It was turning him out of his home, he said, with many a bitter oath; and he prophesied but a short term of ownership for the new comer.

"The ghostes would do for un," he said, with a short laugh. "Them and me bin old friends; but they do take on against new folk. Iss, sure enough the ghostes will do for un."

But though the Garwoods had been in possession from October until now, near Christmas time, their name had as yet been very quiet, and they had heard nothing of either ghosts or smugglers. To be sure, there were odd noises every now and again in the house, and queer things occurred about the place that could not be accounted for; but "rats" have broad shoulders, and bear heavy weights in country places. Alice, in her secret heart, added smugglers; but she thought that even if they were in the immediate neighborhood—in some cave, maybe, among the rocks hard by, of which she and Walter knew nothing—yet so long as she and her husband did not pry, and did not discover, they were safe, and perhaps more than safe; the very fact of there living there—two young, innocent people, who did not smuggle on their own account, who had no connection with smugglers any way, who would not know how to set about smuggling if they tried, or what to do with the things if they had them—being so much of a guarantee for the respectability of the immediate beach, would be justly so much of a protection to their less reputable neighbors: which was not bad reasoning on the part of that young and timid London girl.

There was one thing, however, that she did not like—the persistency with which Jem Penreath used to come about the place. From the first she had taken one of those strong, shuddering dislikes to him, not rare with a certain kind of nervous organization. She could not explain why, but his presence filled her with an infinite, undefinable dread, and she could never meet his eyes. But she did not say anything to her husband beyond her first expression of dislike, which had not touched Walter at all deeply. And he, born artist, cared more for the man's picturesque magnificence of build and face than he cared for the evil spirit lurking behind those deep-set, flaming eyes; and because he made a striking accessory to the scenes he was so fond of painting, encouraged him to come as often as he liked, and went into raptures over the tones of his jersey, which the red rays of the setting sun turned to purple, or the value of his scarlet cap among the bleached old rocks, or against the slaty background of the sea. Encouraged then as he was by the master, Jem had no cause to stay away, and every day he came to Beach House on one or other pretext—but as all, save Walter, saw, for the main reason of keeping an eye on what was doing there—though neither maid nor man, still less the young mistress, who kept close to her own room when he was about, could divine what it was he wanted to watch, what it was he feared would be found out.

Surely something in the place did not agree with Alice! She had grown thin, and pale, and melancholy, and was quite unlike the fresh, if delicate, young bride who had come over in October to take possession of the new home. Yet this was only a fortnight before Christmas, and the change which had been wrought was painfully great and sudden. At last Walter saw the pallor and depression which had stolen like a shadow over the sweet, fair face. Dreamy and abstract as he was, absorbed in his poetry or his art, it was really a strong proof of love that he noticed anything at all, that he saw any change, short of death itself, in his wife.

It was about a fortnight before Christmas, when the days were at their shortest and darkest. Alice was sitting in the bay of the window, gazing into the garden, and looking across the wide sea, where not a living thing was in sight save the wild birds that wheeled and circled in the waning light, and beat their white wings upon the waters and against the dull background of the heavy clouds. There was neither color nor savagery enough to make a picture or a poem: it was just a uniform cold gray throughout; and Walter, wearied with the book he had been reading alone in the study, threw it down on the table, and sauntered into the drawing-room where his young wife was sitting, also alone, in the deep bay window looking over the wild sea.

"My darling! how pale and ill your looking!" said Walter fondly, as the light fell on her upturned face. His eyes were suddenly opened, as is often the way with unobservant people; and for the first time he noticed what the very servants had seen and commented on for weeks. "Are you ill, Alice?" he continued, drawing her close to him. "What is the matter with you, darling?"

"I don't know, dear," she answered with a heavy sigh; nothing so far as I can tell; I only feel weak, and so stupidly nervous! I cannot tell you what a coward I have become, Wally; I could scream if a bird flies suddenly before me, and I am afraid of my own shadow. And then I have such dreadful dreams; or they are scarcely like dreams—they are like visions more than dreams, for I seem to myself to be wide awake all the time."

"What dreams, dear?—you darling little coward! Why, I never imagined you were such a little faint-heart. I am afraid our lonely life is too much for you, dear. If you are going to have all these fancies, I don't know what I must do with you; send you back to London, I think?" He spoke tenderly, for all the lightness of his words, smoothing her fair hair and kissing her forehead at every pause. "Now, come, bring these dark things of yours into the light, darling, and tell me what your dreams are like. There is nothing like telling a thing of this kind to get rid of it. The mind falls into tricks as the body does, and bad dreams and ghostly visions are its commonest tricks. What is it, my own?"

The girl shuddered, and pressed a little closer to his bosom. "It is of poor papa," she half whispered. "I have such dreadful dreams or visions—I don't know what they are—about him, Wally. Night after night he seem to come to my bedside, so pale, and with all the blood streaming from his head. And he looks to me so sorrowfully; it is the sadness of his face that makes me so wretched, far more than the horror of even the blood about him. And sometimes I see what looks like a woman's head with a quantity of fair hair, near him, but I cannot see her face; and sometimes"—here she shivered, and drew her breath, as she sank her voice so low that Walter could hardly hear her—"I see a man like that Penreath standing by them, with such a scowl, such a terrible expression on his face! O, Walter dear!" she went on, weeping now, "you know that poor papa was lost in Cornwall when he was quartered at Truro. I do so fear that something bad happened to him—something worse than being drowned, or lost in an old mine, which I remember our friends used to tell poor mama was the most likely thing. Oh Walter, what shall I do? It is killing me!"

"Poor, sweet child! what can I do for you?" said her husband, tenderly. "Shall I send you away for a while? No? Shall mamma, then, came and stay with you?"

"Yes, yes!" she cried. "I did not like to ask you, darling, for it looked as if I was discontented, but I should like to see mamma again; and, oh, I should like to have her here! She won't mind the loneliness and wildness, I am sure, and I shall be so much happier when she is with us again. But, Walter," and again that shiver passed over her, "she will not *see* anything, as I do, will she?"

"My dear!" he said, in a deprecating voice, "What would become of the world if we were all as sensitive and imaginative as you? No; I should think that mamma would sleep quietly enough, and not have the same bad dreams as her restless little daughter."

"But why do I dream so much, and so continually the same thing?" persisted Alice. "O Walter if you could only see him—poor, dear handsome papa—with that great wound in his head, and that sad, sad face! And he looks at me so pitifully! and then the woman's yellow hair seems to fall across his breast, and that dreadful man's face comes in, oh, so horrible, so fierce! Walter!" she cried, her passion rising and overmastering her caution, "I am sure he has had a hand in something bad! I am sure he has done something wrong to papa. Oh!" she shrieked, clinging to her husband nervously, as a heavy step ground on the gravel walk before the windows, and Jem Penreath, in a red cap and jersey, stood dark against the dusky sky, holding in his hand a batch of fish, which was his excuse for his evening's visit to the house.

Walter dashed out, and for the first time spoke to him angrily, and ordered him out of the garden.

"What business had he," said the young man hautily, "to come before the drawing-room windows in that rude manner? Did he think the place his own, that he had so little respect for any one in it?" with more to the same purpose, angrily, intemperately said.

Jem made no answer. It would have been better, perhaps, if he had; for even Walter was startled, and for an instant almost terrified, at the sudden savageness, the fiendish fury that came into his face. He compressed his lips as if with an effort, then in a hoarse voice, but a quiet manner, said: "I brought un these fish, mayster. Fish do be scarce just now, and I thought as the young mistressud like un."

But Walter, though a trifle scared, was not to be "got over," and went on rating him as young men will when they have a grievance, and the offender is beneath them in social circumstance.

To all of which Jem Penreath answered not a word, but stood with his eyes bent to the ground; once, and once only, lifting them, as he said, with a forced voice of patience, and a terribly look to belie it. "Then, may be, the young mistress do not want the fish, and I be losing my time, and yours, mayster."

And when he had said this he turned away, and disappeared behind the rocks.

"Yes, Alice is right," thought Walter, as he went back into the house. "That Penreath *is* a dangerous fellow. I wonder I never saw it before!"

Of course Mrs. Mackenzie accepted the invitation to that wild Cornish home, where her darling daughter was, as she termed it, "buried alive"; and a few days saw her safely housed, too happy in her girl's society to feel at first the full force of the wildness, the desolation of the scene, and entering into all the small domestic details of household arrangements as only a mother can.

Among other things—it was only a trivial matter, perhaps—she urged Alice to make a laundry of a certain outhouse not far from the kitchen, and which at present was a mere stick and lumber place. "The washing" was one of the grievances of the young wife's life as it stood, and a good laundry would make this little hitch run smooth. So mamma proposed, and Alice requested, and Walter gave the order, that the outhouse should be cleaned and set to rights, and made into a laundry with all despatch. They sent over to the nearest town for the proper workmen to see to the copper, the flue, the ironing-board, and all fit appliances; but first the place had to be cleared, and some of the men in the fishing hamlet—times being bad, and neither fish nor wreck in hand—volunteered to help the town workmen, and save their time and the master's by clearing the place for them.

Since his fall-out with the master, Jem Penreath had been less than usual about the place, so that he did not quite know what was going on; and when he heard down in the village that the young master of Beach House was going to fit up a fine new wash-house out of the stack-house at the back, even his mates were astonished at the ferocity with which he swore he should not do it.

"A fool!" he said, with an oath, "a wandering, idle fool! Can he not let us alone?—if he can't he must learn, and I be the one to teach him!"

On saying which he strode out of the beer-shop where he was sitting, and darted off to Beach House as if life and death depended on his speed.

"Where's the young master?" he asked, as he flung himself into the kitchen.

"Law, Jem, an' you do skear me!" cried the servant, letting the jug she was carring fall from her hands. "Master?—he be out," she answered after a pause, during which Jem's roving, blood-shot eyes seemed, as she said afterwards, "like swords."

"And the young mistress," said Jem, in his hoarse, harsh voice, that had almost the effect of an animal's growl.

"She?—she be in the drawing-room," replied the girl.

And Jem Penreath, without another word, passed through the kitchen and shouldered his way to the drawing-room where Alice and her mother were sitting.

He knocked at the door, perhaps a little roughly, and a startled voice said, "Come in," with an accent of terror that was almost a scream.

Jem opened the door, and came forward.

"Ye be a-thinking of that stack-house?" he said, touching his hat, which he kept on his head.

"We are clearing it out," Alice answered with a visible shudder, as the man pressed forward.

"Ye do foolishly," Jem said; "I know the place, and ye do know nothing of it. That stack-house, it will tumble down about your heads if ye do touch it. It is all rot—beam and rafter. Be warned by me, miss, and leave un alone:"

"I do not interfere in my husband's arrangements," Alice answered, with a fair amount of dignity. "If you have any advice to give about the house, you had better give it to him."

"But the boys are at work in it now, miss; and I must speak to you, because I do not know where the young master, be; and you would be skeared, and more than skeared, if you heard the place a-banging down like a cannon-ball about un's head; and it will, I tell ye. Be warned, I do say to you again!"

In his eagerness, Jem pressed still nearer to the table by which the two ladies were sitting. In the middle was a large painted miniature of her husband, the handsome captain, which poor Mrs. Mackenzie always carried about with her. It was her fancy to have his beloved face forever before her, and she had brought it with her to Beach House, where it stood on Alice's table as she had remembered it, for more than ten years now, standing always on the table at home. It had been taken just before Captain Mackenzie had gone to Cornwall—that fatal sojourn from which he had never returned; and it was a wonderful likeness. It caught Jem Penreath's eye; and Alice's blood froze in her veins at the strange, only half-checked, groan, mingled with a curse, which the man uttered as his eyes fell on it.

"Who's he?" he said abruptly, and he touched the picture with his hand.

The girl snatched it up and pressed it to her bosom, as if to protect it.

"My father!" she cried, standing up, white and trembling, but meeting Jem's fierce look with the courage of desperation.

"My husband!" broke out the poor widow, laying her hand on the man's arm. "Did you know him? Can you tell me anything of him?" "I didn't know him, and I cannot tell you of him," said Jem, speaking slowly, and as if with great difficulty, but by this time he had restrained himself, and had lowered his eyes to the ground.

Then he said no more, but, still never raising his eyes, turned round and left the room, and they heard his heavy tread echo through the passage.

A sudden fear possessed Alice. "Where is Walter?" she cried, "Mamma! come with me! that man will kill Walter! I saw it in his eyes; he means to kill him as he killed papa!"

"My child——Alice—you are raving, my darling!" said her mother, soothingly; but she, too, was trembling.

The whole scene, strange, unintelligible, harrowing as it was, had shaken her nerves, and while trying to restrain, even to support her daughter, she needed comfort for herself.

"I know what I am saying, mamma—come with me! come!" Her voice had risen now to a shrill scream, as she caught her mother by the arm and dragged her with her through the passage to the kitchen, and so on to the stack-house which the men were clearing.

It was a wild, dark evening, and the wind was sobbing around the house in fitful gusts, that told of a rising storm for the morrow. Yet to-morrow would be Christmas Day,—that day of joy to thousands, of peace and love and pleasant knitting-up of home-ties, of tender regrets for the past, though dead not buried nor yet forgotten, of loveliest hopes for the future,—that day associated with all that is best in the heart and life of England,—the first Christmas Day that Alice had ever spent away from her mother's home. But what a Christmas Eve was this! Dread and nameless anguish within doors—without, gloom, desolation and the awful signs of a coming storm. The wind was moaning across the tossing stretch of waters; the sea-birds wheeled low, and shrieked and screamed as if in pain; the wild waves dashed against the sounding beach, and tore down the shingles as they were sucked back into the vast world of seething waters; the heavy sky hung low and lowering—ah! it was indeed, a threatening Christmas Eve on that wild Cornish coast, and even the hardy fishermen themselves felt the foreboding influences, and were saddened though they did not tremble.

Within the stack-house the men were working by the fitful light of a few lanterns set on the floor, and the candles which, miner-like, some carried in their caps. There were three sturdy fellows from the hamlet; the master workman from the neighboring town, come to take measurements when the place should be cleared; and Jem Penreath, haggard, anxious, desperate-looking, facing Walter Garwood, who stood with his hands in the pocket of his shooting-jacket looking on, every now and then pausing in his work to gaze full at the young master, with something in his face not pleasant to behold. He had tried to persuade him to leave the work alone, but Walter would not, and all the more because the man was so strange and so persistent. It was noticed at the time, and spoken much of afterwards, how Jem stood doggedly to one side of the house where the heaviest stakes were; why did he look so often at Walter, balancing that heavy club across his palm, and with a kind of speculation in his eyes, a kind of preparatory spring in his feet?—and how he wrought there, not so diligently as noisily, moving about the logs and stakes and brushwood piled up in that corner with a great show of exertion, but doing so little that the other men had turned out all the rest whilst his part was still unfinished. And it was noticed too, how fierce he looked towards the young master, and how, once or twice, still balancing that heavy st ke across his palm, he had edged a step or two nearer. And yet, what ill had the young man done? and what cause had they to be afraid that Jem would do him a mischief? But one of them, somehow or another, always managed to get between Walter and Penreath; and just as they came up to his side of the place, and began to clear away the rubbish thence, Alice, wild and white, stood in the doorway, and calling his name aloud, rushed forward to her husband.

He turned at the beat of her hurrying feet, at the sound of her frightened voice, and the turn saved him; for as he stepped aside a heavy beam came down on the very spot where he had stood, and at the same moment a loud exclamation broke from one of the men. A loose board had rotted, and the heavy fall of the beam broke through the crumbling wood—broke through on to a battered mass of earth which it stirred and scattered, showing the handle of something that looked like a cutlass, and a stiffened end of darkened cloth—some parts a lightish grey, others a blackened red.

"Why, what's this?" said the master workman from the town, stooping down.

"Leave un alone," hissed Jem, laying his broad hand on the man's shoulder; leave un alone, I say, or it may be the worse for ye!"

"Hey, man! what's this ye say? It do look like knowing more about a dark job than ought to be," answered the townsman, thrusting him back, while at the same time he pulled at the handle, and brought out a rusty cutlass, with one deep hack in the blade. "There's more where that came from," he shouted; for he was excited, and the find was suggestive.

"Lower the lights, men, and work away!" cried Walter. "Mother look to Alice," he added, he too pressing forward with the rest.

But Alice was not to be kept back. Her eyes wild, her lips apart, her young face blanched, and strangely stiffened in all her limbs, she stood close by Jem Penreath, despite her horror of the man, holding her mother by the wrist, and forcing her to look too. Spadeful by spadeful they uncovered what was lying under the earth—slowly as it seemed to those who, excited, strained, half-maddened, according to their degree, waited for what was to be revealed. And then they uncovered—what? The crumbling bodies of a man with short, dark, curly locks, and of a woman down to whose waist fell a mass of golden hair. Across the man's neck hung a thick gold chain of a peculiar pattern, to which was attached a locket that had been forced open, and the locket held the miniature likeness of Mrs. Mackenzie, and on the fleshless hand glittered a ring.

A piercing shriek burst from the poor widow. It needed no second glance to tell who and what she saw. "My husband! Charles! O Charles!" she sobbed, flinging herself on her knees by the terrible grave.

"And this is his murderer!" cried Alice, as she clutched Jem Penreath by the arm, and held him.

Strong man as he was—none stronger in all the country round—that slight girl's touch held him. He stood for a moment paralyzed and lost. His memory went back to this very day ten years ago—almost at this same hour—when he had stolen on the traces of Mary Manifote and her gallant lover from Truro, as they took shelter in this deserted outhouse from the storm, and ended both their lives together. There had been no struggle, no outcry, no pleading for life—only a woman's hand had grasped his arm, scarcely knowing what it did in the terrible suspense of the moment. Quietly, as they sat there in the deepening gloom, he had stolen upon them from the other side, and one blow had struck the life out of him who had gained what he had been refused, another had finished the work on her, and had avenged his denial in blood. The woole scene, so swift and bloody as it had been, wrought itself again before his eyes, so that he had not felt the tight hand which grasped his arm with fingers braced to slender bars of steel as her's had been.

But when the men came forward, his senses were aroused. The touch of the woman's hand had been only a continuance, a part of the vision that had been conjured up again before him; but when the men's rough grasp seized him, he woke back to himself, to his manhood, to his strength, and with a laugh of contempt he shook them off, and stood at bay.

"Ay, boys, it's come at last," he said, "and ye see it before ye. I swore it, she should never be living man's if not mine; and I kept my oath; and I kept it well. She and him, they lie there where they courted, and where I watched them, boys, and went mad; but not so mad that I could not strike—that I could not end it all before the day came when she was to go with him—to her shame. Now, ye have it all; and do your worst."

Swift steps pressed forward, sturdy hands were thrust out, but, swifter and stronger than any, Jem Penreath thrust them all aside, then sprang through the doorway, and was down the steep rocks before they could tell which way he had gone; and, search as they might, he never was seen in the place again, and never a sign, never a trace of him was found.

Days after, drifting with the current, washed up by the tide, a dreadful human corpse was flung on the shore of a lonely French village. It was buried in the small churchyard, and masses for the dead were said in its behalf, and some pitiful little maid flung a crown of *immortelles* on the nameless sod, and kind souls sorrowed, thinking of the friends and lovers of the unknown—parents may be, may be children, wife or lover—who would watch and wait through days and weeks of agony and hope deferred, till perhaps the poor burdened hearts could bear no more, but would break under their weight of misery. So they made up tender and pathetic stories over the corpse that had floated to their shores; and none dreamt of that bloody scene which one Christmas Eve saw enacted, and another revealed.

Beach House was soon deserted again after this, and the Garwoods' short occupancy seemed to be the end of its life as a dwelling-place. It fell into ruins, and got a worse name than ever, being said to be accursed, and to bring ill luck on any one possessing or occupying it. And when the news came down that way that the poor young lady had gone clean out of her mind since that awful night, and the doctors said she would never be herself again, Beach House was blamed for it all, and the curse was held undoubted. But Alice was not in quite such a hopeless state as report made out. She did certainly for a time lose her reason, but she rallied again and threw off her malady before it had struck too deeply. And by care, and the kindly agency of time, she lost the vividness of the horror that had overtaken her, and remembered that terrible evening only as one remembers a bad dream—a dream that may darken, shadow, sadden our day, but that does not destroy the years, nor extend into the future.—*Routledge's Annual.*

☞"Well, my young gentleman, how would you like your hair cut?" "Oh, like papa's please—with a little round hole at the top."

## Our Young Folks' Column.

*Original contributions to "Our Young Folks' Column" are solicited from our correspondents.*

### THE CHILDREN'S CHOICE.

ROBERT.

Of all the trees that grow in the wood,
The oak seems the king to me;
How proudly he stretches his boughs abroad!
What a sturdy trunk has he!
Of his tough, clean wood brave ships are made,
To sail o'er the ocean wide;
As once they wrestled with storms on land,
So they now defy wind and tide.

LAURA.

The oak is strong, but the pine is sweet,
And softly he sigheth to me
Through the midsummer hours, when I lie at his feet
And dream what my future shall be.
His spicy wood in a hundred ways
Is useful all over the land;
It yieldeth quickly (as glad to serve)
To the flame, or the carver's hand.

NED.

The oak and the pine may be strong and sweet,
But I shall the apple-tree sing,
For that spicy red fruit he drops at our feet,
And his rose-and-white bloom in the spring.
What puddings and pies and cider clear
To this dear old tree we owe!
What paring frolics, Thanksgiving cheer!
Long, long may it live and grow!

BESSY.

*My* favolit twee is the Gwissmas-twee!
It gwows in a tub of moss,
It bwought your Bessy dis darlin' doll
And a booitiful wockin'-hoss.

It gwewed in our parlor, all in one night,
'Most up to the top of the wall,
All covered with pwesents and candles bwight;
Bessy fink it's the best twee of all!

—*Our Young Folks.*

## The King of the Coast.

We didn't apply the term of "coasting" to sliding down hill in the old time. It was simply sliding down hill; and I well remember, when John Goddard came on Mason's Hill, one Saturday afternoon, with his new Boston sled, and spoke of "coasting down," we laughed at him as an affected fellow; but he had a fine sled—long and slim, and elegantly painted in red, and green. and gold colors, with a coat of varnish on it that was dazzling in the sun. Much admiration was caused by the sled, and the possessor of it was envied by all of the boys, who saw in him a conqueror.

John had set himself up considerably on the strength of that sled. He had just come from the metropolis, and was himself a half source of wonder, because Beston was deemed very far off by us boys in those days, and any one coming from there was rather looked up to as a traveled personge, and his opinion was listened to on all topics that boyhood was interested in with great deference. How much he knew! He could tell us all about Faneuil Hall, and the State House, and Boston Common; and here his eloquence exhausted itself in describing that splendid "coasting" place, which we received with open mouths, though we laughed at him a little in our sleeve because of the new word. However, we got over that in a little while, and "coasting" was as common as "sliding" had been before.

But what stories he told of his great exploits with his sled!—some of them very funny ones,—and, of course, we all believed them. Any quantity of other sleds he had broken, and he had been pesfectly terrific in tripping people up who got in his way, some of whom had escaped but by the narrowest chance. Then there was nothing on the "coast" that would beat his sled anywhere. The boys at this looked at their s e ls disparagingly; and they did look inferior beside that beautiful fabric, with its blue silk cord, seeming like a hound held in leash, ready to start when bidden. I should have said that John himself was a handsome, dashy-looking fellow, and was of a class in life as far above the common boys by whom he was surrounded as his sled was better than theirs; but there is little feeling of caste among boys, and, as he put on no airs, he was gladly welcomed in the circle, and became at once the lion, as I have intimated. Of course a sled like that could whip the crowd, and the honors were accorded to its owner in advance.

At the foot of Mason's Hill, in front of the jail, was a high board fence, made of boards laid lengthwise, with several inches' space between each; and, in the big snow-storms from the north-east, the wind would blow through these openings, and curl the snow up on the inside of the fence, like mountain peaks, leaving a space of some feet between the top and the fence, the snow being blown out almost to the ground below,—presenting a chasm that might, at convenience, be transformed into a snow fort, for attack or defence, which was frequently done.

At the time of which I write, a hill of snow as high as the fence had been formed in this manner, that sloped down gradually on the other side, towards the hill; and it was the ambition of all to obtain momentum sufficient, in sliding down, to run up to the top of this snow mountain. None, however, had as yet achieved it.

"Let the Zephyr try it, Goddard," said Joe Burgin. It was the name of the sled.

Then Goddard told us of his once sliding down Hancock Street, in Boston, and striking an old colored gentleman between the legs, tipping him over on his, Goddard's back, who carried him, with his feet elevated in the air, away to the bottom of the hill, and the dreadful fuss they made about it; whereat we all laughed.

"Try her on the snowdrift," Joe Burgin again urged.

He accordingly got on the sled, after running a little,—hardly necessary, for Mason's Hill was very steep, and very icy,—and down he went. The sled flashed along the coast, in its gay colors, like a brilliant bird on the wing, and admiration grew enthusiastic when it was seen that he had run up two thirds of the distance to the top of the drift below. This was at least three sleds' lengths higher than the best had gone. He came back flushed with triumph.

Others followed, doing their utmost, but he distanced them all. In the midst of the excitement, a new comer appeared on the hill. It was "Little Ben," as we used to call him, because he was heavier than any of us; and he came slowly up the acclivity, puffing and blowing, dragging an old and rough-looking sled after him, that seemed made of slabs nailed together with board nails, and appeared to shake as it was drawn along.

"Hallo, Ben!" cried a half-dozen voices; "where did you get that sled? Is it part of Noah's Ark?"

"Guess not," said Ben; "it has been in our family too long for that."

"Well, what are you going to do with it?"

"Gwine to slide," said he; "and, if you ken beat her, I want you to bring on your sleds and do it quick. She can't wait."

There was a laugh at this, and Goddard gave his sled a twirl round by the rope, as much as to say, "Look at this, now, stupid, if you want to see a sled, and take your disreputable thing out of the way."

Ben glanced at the gaudy-looking affair, and smiled in a manner that provoked Goddard, who looked round on the assembled crowd for sympathy. They were all with him, and Ben's old sled was food for unbounded ridicule.

"Take it home and split it up, Ben" said one.

"Make a hen-coop of it," said another.

"'Tis big enough for a barn door," said a third.

They all had something to say, and they all were having a capital time at Ben's expense, when he said, very quietly,—

"Well, she isn't very handsome, that's a fact; but I guess she ken hold her own agin any of you. That 'ere is a pretty nice-looking sled; but I guess old Claw-hammer here'll beat her."

There was a louder laugh than ever at this, especially at the name; but it didn't disturb him.

"O, you can larf," said he; "that's mighty easy; but the proof of the puddin' is in eatin' the bag. Bring on your sleds. Let's see what this fine chap can do."

So the Zephyr was put upon the track again, and she went up fully a foot higher than before, amid the cheers of the boys.

"Pretty well done," said Ben; but now we will see some of old Claw-hammer's p'ints. Go it, now,"—speaking to the sled.

He did not run at starting, but threw himself upon his rickety sled, that seemed to dart at his word. Down the hill he went, with startling speed—down, and down, and down he went, faster as he neared the bottom, when, striking the hill of snow below, up the sled rose to the very top, and dropping into the chasm, pitching Ben headlong upon the fence beyond, doubling him up, with the breath beaten out of him, where he hung a moment suspended, and then fell into the street.

It was some moments before he recovered. The boys had rushed down the hill to help him as he went over, and was greated with a shout of gratulation as he pulled his old sled from where it lay, and slid on it down the declivity of the snow hill. Never did the popular tide turn so quickly. The old sled was seized by a dozen hands to draw it up the hill; and the elegant Boston sled, with all its bright hues, faded out of popular regard, to give place to what was admitted to be the *King of the Coast.*

"I tell you what it is," said Ben, "you can't always tell the wuth of a thing by the outside. It may be, like a singed cat, a good deal better than it looks."—*Our Boys and Girls.*

☞"I say, ma," exclaimed a little minx of thirteen, "do you know what the pyrotechnical remedy is for crying infant?"

"Goodness gracious me, no! I never heard of such a thing!"

"Well, ma, it's a rocket."

☞A home without children! It is like a lantern and no candle; a garden and no flowers; a vine and no grapes; a brook and no water gurgling through its channel.


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